

Carbon County Open Space Advisory Board

Minutes

August 17, 2023

6:30 pm

The Open Space Advisory Board was called to order at 6:30pm on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 44 Susquehanna Street, Jim Thorpe, PA 1st floor Conference Room.

In Attendance:

Fred Kemmerer, Jr., Ian Farrell, Katherine Cunfer, Sara Holland, David Krause, Danadee Miller-Boyle, Richard Fedor, Gerry Madden.

Absent:

Brent Green

Others in Attendance:

Dennis DeMara, Jeanee Ortiz, Dawn Gorham, Maggie Witmer, Ann Hutchinson, Chris Lukasevich, David Bodnar, Jason Skrimcovsky, Linda Christman, and Roy Christman. A sign in sheet was circulated for all attendees.

Call to Order:

Fred Kemmerer, Jr., Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led group in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of July 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

1st by Sara Holland and 2nd by David Krause – All in favor.

Recap of Previous Meeting and Mission:

Dennis Demara, Facilitator, reiterated to the board the open space mission and emphasized the board will continue to learn the process of how to conduct and make decisions on open space priority areas in the county. Mr. Demara introduced Ann Hutchinson from Media, PA who will be helping the board to put together a plan of action. Comments were followed by Ann Hutchinson including discussion on the important conservation areas in the county.

Public Comments from Guests:

Linda Christman, Carbon County Resident commented she is excited to see that a program for an open space advisory board is in place for the county. She thanked the county officials for their efforts to get this program in the works.

Special Natural Features in Carbon County:

Maggie Witmer gave a presentation of conservation sets on water quality and wildlife habitat in the county. She mentioned the northern part of Carbon County is predominantly one of the areas to concentrate on water quality. Natural Lands shares interest in the wildlife habitat and natural heritage areas which include woodland.

What's Important to You in Open Space – Mapping Exercise:

Ann Hutchinson and Dawn Gorham conducted a mapping exercise with the board. Board members looked at wildlife conservancy maps and gave at least three different areas in the county that could be potential sites for open space applications.

Discussion of Selection Guidelines :

Ann Hutchinson and Dawn Gorham provided the board with 3 handouts of examples to use for future selection processing.

Further Business and Adjournment:

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM, 1st by Richard Fedor and 2nd by Sara Holland - All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Conference Room at 44 Susquehanna Street, Jim Thorpe, PA.

Respectfully submitted:

Danadee Miller-Boyle