

Carbon County Open Space Advisory Board

Minutes

September 21, 2023

6:30 pm

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

In Attendance:

Fred Kemmerer, Jr., Ian Farrell, Katherine Cunfer, David Krause, Danadee Miller-Boyle, and Gerry Madden.

Absent:

Brent Green, Richard Fedor and Sara Holland

Others in Attendance:

Dennis DeMara, Dan Kunkle, Dawn Gorham, Maggie Witmer, Ann Hutchinson, Christine Proctor (guest), Lee Kunkle (guest), Lucy Freck (guest), Chris Lukasevich, David Bodnar, and Jason Skrimcovsky.

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 August 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

1st by David Krause and 2nd by Katherine Cunfer – All in favor.

Recap of Previous Meeting and Mission:

Dennis Demara, Facilitator, reiterated to the board that the mission tonight is to finalize the open space selection guidelines that were distributed to board members at the last meeting. Mr. Demara introduced Christine Proctor, director of conservation for the Mid-Atlantic Audobon Society who will help provide input to the board. Comments were followed by Christine Proctor.

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

Dawn Gorham reviewed with board members the mapping exercise results by displaying wildlife conservancy maps with further input and discussion with board members.

Discussion of Open Space Selection Guidelines :

Ann Hutchinson and Dawn Gorham reviewed the guidelines with discussion of any tweaks or changes. Dan Kunkle provided 3 cards to board members to vote on each of the guideline criteria line items. One card was for a no vote; One card for a maybe vote; and One card for a yes vote. Each line item in the guidelines was discussed and voted on by board members. The guidelines will be provided at the next meeting with the updated data.

Homework Assignment:

Ann Hutchinson encouraged board members to get out into the county and look for at least 6 areas of interest in different parts of the county that may have value to our mission of open space. Assignments were distributed among board members. The Northwest area including coal region and Panther Valley – Katherine Cunfer; Northeast area to Western Pocono region in Penn Forest – Kidder area, mostly forested – Danadee Miller-Boyle and Fred Kemmerer; Southwest area – primarily Ag region, Mahoning and East Penn Townships, HV streams – Ian Farrell and Gerry Madden; Southeast area – mix of Ag and forested with HV streams – Danadee Miller-Boyle.

Further Business and Adjournment:

Hearing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM, 1st by David Krause and 2nd by Ian Farrell - All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Conference Room at 44 Susquehanna Street, Jim Thorpe, PA.

Respectfully submitted:

Danadee Miller-Boyle