

**East Coventry Township**  
855 Ellis Woods Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

**Open Space Committee**  
Wednesday, August 1, 2012

**MINUTES**

Present: Mariea Geho, N. Lance Parson, Melissa Albright, Michael Hott, Roland Kolb

Guests: Michael Moyer

1. **Call to Order.** Mariea Geho called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.** Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** On a motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously, the minutes from the last meeting, June 6, 2012, were approved, as presented.
4. **Public Comments.**
  - A. Michael Moyer presented two items to the Committee:
    - i. **Township's possible acquisition of property from Exelon.** Michael Moyer explained that the township has been given the opportunity to acquire property at Fricks Lock from Exelon, but warned that the property should not be taken by the township without proper inspection and testing for contaminants such as radionuclides.
    - ii. **Exelon's proposed increase in water usage from Schuylkill.** Mr. Moyer also explained that the Delaware River Basin Commission has proposed approving an increase in the amount of water withdrawn from the Schuylkill River by two million gallons per day for the use of the cooling towers. On Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at 4:30pm (time for filing to be heard during public comment), the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will hold a three-hour public hearing at the Sunnybrook Ballroom.
  - B. Mariea Geho presented the *Invasive Plants in Ellis Woods Park* brochure and offered for members of the committee to join student, Eric Hughes, in clearing invasive species of plants from Ellis Woods Park on Saturday, August 11, 2012 at 8:00am and Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 8:00am. Bring gloves and small shovels.
5. **Reviewed Parcels of Interest from June.**

The committee discussed the township's interest in the riparian buffer on both sides of all of the its waterways, the preference of the use of conservation easements (instead of riparian buffer easement) and the use of properly drafted easements to absolve landowners of liability as a result of public use.

Michael Hott prepared two maps for each of the parcels of interest that were identified by the committee during the June 2012 meeting. Upon review of the floodplains within many of the previously identified parcels of interest, it was determined that most of the parcels are not in jeopardy of being developed. However, three parcels were identified as being parcels of

interest due to factors such as: being in jeopardy of development; close location to waterway(s); close location to already protected parcels.

The committee concluded that its initial focus on parcels along the waterways may have focused too much on the riparian buffer, without full knowledge of the impracticability (and therefore very low risk) of future development of many of the previously identified parcels of interest.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously, the committee agreed to reevaluate all large parcels in the township for discussion at the next meeting.

6. **New Business.**

A. Lance Parson requested that the Agenda for each future meeting be available a week before the meeting.

B. Michael Moyer provided information that East Nantmeal Township recently withdrew from the Northern Chester County Federation.

C. Marica Geho discussed the best way to address the leasing of farm land in the township.

7. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting is Wednesday, September 5, 2012.

8. **Adjournment.** On a motion duly made, seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Melissa S. Albright, Secretary