

Annual Report of the Open Space Advisory Committee
For 2025

Administration:

The Committee started the year with the following members: Donna Delany, Nick Rotoli, Dawn Fryer, Jeff Butler and Jim Wendelgass. Jim Wedelgass was elected Chair and Nick Rotoli was elected Secretary. Jim Wendelgass resigned as Chair in March because he became a member of the Board of Supervisors. Jeff Butler was elected Chair at that time. In May, Pam Brown was added as a member.

Activities:

In March, Karl Russek of the French and Pickering Creek Conservation Trust made a presentation to the Committee on how local townships collaborate with the trust. The Committee had extensive discussions on recommending that the Township cover certain costs associated with the preservation of Township properties. There were also discussions on the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program and the Conservation Easement process and how to make them more easily understandable to Township residents. There were also discussions about doing a marketing initiative to better inform Township residents about the Open Space preservation program in the Township.

Discussions and Activities Related to Particular Properties:

The Committee reviewed the following properties and took the following actions:

- Beaver Hill Road Property: The owner of the property wished to preserve it. The Committee reviewed the history of the property and determined that the property was already preserved because it was the dedicated open space for the Addis development. No action was taken because the property is already preserved.
- Bennett Property: The Committee discussed the potential development of the property and its desire to preserve it from development. The Committee passed a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Township open space funds be used to preserve the property.
- Kimberton Road Property: The Committee had previously recommended to the Board of Supervisors that Township Open Space Funds be used to purchase the property. New information had come to the Committee that there was additional private interest in purchasing and developing the property. The Committee passed a motion to send that information on to the Board of Supervisors and repeat its recommendation to use open space funds to preserve the property.

Other Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors:

The Committee made and adopted the following motion:

Motion: The Open Space Review Board recommends to the West Vincent Township Board of Supervisors that the Township covers the all costs for conservation and trail easements on properties deemed beneficial to the Township and its residents, including but not limited to: ● Appraisal ● Easement preparation fees ● Survey, if necessary ● Phase I

Environmental Assessment, if necessary ● Title insurance ● Closing costs ● Stewardship fund contributions

This recommendation reflects the Open Space Review Board's position that full cost coverage for these items is essential to facilitating high-quality conservation and trail easements that align with the Township's long-term open space, recreational, and environmental goals. Township committees will present properties to the Board for approval including a committee's criteria ranking scores, when applicable.

Respectfully submitted:

West Vincent Township Open Space Advisory Committee