

West Pikeland Land Trust

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MEETING MINTUES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2007

Attendance: Jim Rowan Bill Cracas Curt Grogan
 Suzanne Kaplan Tom Williams Melinda Murcurio
 Ann Orth Sean O'Neill

OLD BUSINESS

1. Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of previous Board of Directors Meeting July 23, 2007 were reviewed and approved. In the absence of a permanent Secretary, Tom Williams agreed to take minutes from meeting.

2. Executive Committee

Tom Williams, Jim Rowan and Sean O'Neill met to review the WPLT By-Laws and proposed that an Executive Committee be formed, as indicated in the By-Laws, to allow WPLT to conduct critical business between monthly Directors Meetings. An Executive Committee of Directors Rowan, Orth, Williams, Kaplan and O'Neill was nominated by Bill Cracas and approved unanimously.

3. WPLT Directors' Terms

Jim Rowan advised that Centa Logan had indicated her intent to resign from the WPLT Board effective immediately. Jim Rowan agreed to prepare a letter and Suzanne would research an appropriate gift to acknowledge Centa's service. With the resignation of Sarah Armstrong, that brought the total number of Directors down to seven. This is two short of the 9-11 members suggested in the By-Laws.

4. WPLT Director Nomination - Mike Groman

The Executive Committee had met last month with Mike Groman who was proposed as a Director. Mike had previously attended a meeting of WPLT and indicated his willingness to serve as a Director and chair the Education Committee. Bill Cracas nominated Mike Groman to assume Centa's vacancy on the Board, which was unanimously approved. Bill agreed to propose nomination at October 14 BOS meeting. Sean O'Neill agreed to review By-Laws and current terms of Directors, but it was assumed that all seven current Directors were appointed by the BOS (required 2/3) and this would give WLPT flexibility in appointing future Directors.

5. WPLT Committee Structure

Suzanne reviewed the summary of potential WPLT Committees and it was agreed to discuss in more detail at next month's meeting. It was agreed to invite Melinda Mercurio to the next meeting. She had expressed interest in WPLT and has experience in communications and public relations.

6. WPLT Officers

The Executive Committee was also charged with reviewing the WPLT slate of Officers and Committee structure which was due to renew in September. Ann Orth indicated her desire not to return as President and since there were several other potential Directors that had expressed interest in joining WPLT and possibly assuming officers' duties after the November election, it was agreed that Jim Rowan would serve as interim President/Treasurer and Tom Williams would serve as Vice President/Secretary until the end of the year. A motion to this effect was made and approved unanimously.

7. Tavangar Easement

Ann Orth reported that NLT had received a grant for 50% of the appraised value of the Tavangar property from Chester County for, among other things, administrative expenses, including appraisals, which had previously been reimbursed by WPLT. Another 50% was anticipated from the State DCNR. Ann agreed to contact NLT and request a copy of Grant proposals for both County and State. All Directors agreed that this was a valuable property and WPLT had a stake and should review and make recommendations regarding and potential subdivision of this property.

8. Open Space Bond Referendum Committee

Curt Grogan reviewed the recent activities of the Open Space Bond Referendum Committee including a proposed timeline of key dates, recent mailings and a summary of proposed format for community event scheduled for September 30th. The WP Citizens for Open Space Committee was on track with all deliverables to date. Curt requested volunteers to assist with coverage at the polls on election day.

NEW BUSINESS

9. WPLT Secretary

Most Directors present expressed a need for a permanent secretary to record minutes, prepare notices and be responsible for filing of WPLT documents. Rotating this responsibility among directors has been an imposition and resulted in inconsistent recording of meeting minutes. Bill Cracas suggested that Ann develop a job description and send a letter to the Township. It was possible that given sufficient interest, the Township could provide some administrative support which could be shared among the various Township committees.

10. October Workshop

Ann Orth reviewed plans for October 13 Workshop. The Land Trust was hosting the event and Eva Mondheim was the resource. The topic was trees and shrubs. Ann was going to prepare postcard mailing and make arrangements with the Township for mailing. Bill Cracas encouraged similar events and submitted a rough budget for various catered options that could be considered for future events. All agreed that WPLT was too busy prior to the election to undertake any other event planning.

11. Township Land Assessment and Management Plan

Ann advised that WPLT had received a grant to cover 75% of the expense to prepare an assessment and management plan for all Township land (334 acres). Ann obtained a proposal from Floyd Casey, a local forester. The cost of this plan was \$2,000. Bill Cracas thought it was likely the Township would cover the \$500 shortfall. It was agreed that this plan had significant PR importance and should be promoted in the township news letter, website and .org email correspondence.

12. Land Trust Cooperative Activities

Ann reviewed the McOrmand (formerly Craven) property. The French and Pickering Trust had approached WPLT about partnering on a potential easement on this 10acre parcel. The estimated cost to prepare the easement was reviewed and with a not-to-exceed estimate of \$5,000. It seemed like a worthy project to pursue however there were many questions about the structure of this easement that needed to be better understood, including who would be responsible for the endowment. Bill and Sean suggested there were some storm water issues with this property also. Ann agreed to review with FPT and report back at the next meeting.

Ann also agreed to try and contact Andy Johnson at NALTA to get and update on the progress at Bryn Coed Farm.

The next meeting will be on **Monday, October 22, 2007 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas L. Williams
September 19, 2007