

May 15, 2023

The Strasburg Township Board of Supervisors held their regular meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Strasburg Township Municipal Building, 400 Bunker Hill Road. Present were Peggy Dearolf, Michael Weaver and Thomas Willig. Mark Deimler joined remotely.

Guests: Fritz Schroeder, Katie Gonick

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Public comment was invited. There was none.

Schroeder and Gonick, Lancaster Conservancy (LC), appeared to discuss the feasibility of a partnership with the Township to preserve woodlands.

- LC traditionally utilizes a fee simple purchase of property at appraised value
- 30 acres is the minimum for consideration
- Primary focus is on headwaters and final miles of waterways
- Secondary focus is access to nature
- Conservation easements are not usually done, but LC realizes it may need to explore their use due to the marked increase in cost of land
- Enforcement of easements is a main problem. Once trees are taken down, there isn't much to do about it
- Education and support are key for a successful program

Weaver strongly supported the idea of establishing a permanent fund with annual budget allocations to enable dual easements with State and local agencies: Lancaster Conservancy, Lancaster Farmland Trust and the Agricultural Preserve Board.

Since there aren't any properties in the Township close to the LC 30 acre threshold, Schroeder recommended creating a conservation plan in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Lancaster Farmland Trust, LC, Clean Water Partnership and Pequea Creek Watershed Association. He will provide any contact information he has for those groups.

There being no further business before the Board, the Supervisors adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Judith G. Willig
Township Secretary