



Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of the November 10, 2025 Meeting

In Attendance:

Joseph Meehan, Chair
Dr. Richard Costlow, Vice Chair
Nancy Becker [late arrival due to a conflict]
Michon Blake
Robert DeHaven

Todd Fisher
Joe Rumsey
Dave Sponseller
Katie Cleary – Township Events Coordinator
Kristen Warner – Board of Supervisors Liaison

Excused:

There were no excused members.

Other Attendees:

Jeff Hill [TYA interest]
Todd Montgomery

Agenda Item 1. MEETING FORMALITIES

The Chairperson, Mr. Meehan, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. All present participated in the pledge of allegiance. The 10NOV2025 meeting of the OPEN SPACE AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING began and minutes of the meeting are reported here.

Agenda Item 3. OPENING COMMENTS

Mr. Meehan noted that an audio recording of the meeting is made for convenience in preparing the minutes. Mr. David Kraynik, the Township Manager, met with Mr. Meehan on 04NOV25 and provided an update on items of interest to the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSPAC). Discussion was deferred on the topics to the agenda items as they arose during the meeting.

Agenda Item 4. APPROVAL OF OSPAC MINUTES – Meeting of 13OCT2025

There were corrections to the draft minutes; all were accepted. A motion to approve the corrected minutes was voiced by Mr. Rumsey and seconded by Ms. Blake. A quorum of Committee members voted in favor of the motion.

Agenda Item 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A comment from Mr. Jeff Hill [given at the end of the meeting but recorded here] requested that fencing be installed in and around the Green Lane park fields to prevent soccer balls from going into Kriebel Road or into the ravine between the fields and the Municipal Authority plant. OSPAC agreed to review the park plan and revisit this fencing issue in the Spring as an addition to the project to reconfigure the parking lot and other issues related to the overall park improvement.

Agenda Item 6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 OSPAC 2026 BUDGET UPDATE

Budget is on the BOS agenda for Wednesday 12NOV. The BOS is considering a loan for capital projects. Multiple options will be considered by the BOS. OSPAC capital requests projects will be funded in proportion to the size of the loan [see 2026 budget presentation]. OSPAC will discuss priorities for 2026 at December meeting after the BOS decides on the funding.

6.2 PROJECT UPDATES

6.2.1 Grist Mill Park Recreational Improvements

Progress remains behind schedule. OSPAC discussed restrictions for dogs in play areas of the park due to the reported presence of canine fecal material in several locations.

Summary Notes:

- ❖ Pavilion is erected and roofed
- ❖ Basketball court surface finished; court fencing needs to be installed
- ❖ Fences for the site to be installed
- ❖ Electrical connections are installed
- ❖ Storm water drainage ditch needs to be completed
- ❖ Tree plantings are struggling, possible re-plant
- ❖ Completion date projected in November
- ❖ Decision to open the park and play equipment will be deferred until a completion date is established

Grist Mill Park Infrastructure Improvements

Work funded by the \$250K grant from the *Montgomery County 2040 Program* for refurbishment of the drainage retention basins in Grist Mill Park will proceed to the contracting stage then implementation.

6.2.2 Green Lane Road Park Soccer Field

Site work for 2025 by Land Tec Enterprises is complete; herbicide treatment will occur in Spring 2026. The fields were mowed in October. Play will not be possible until the 2028 season or, if 2027 spring and summer weather conditions are optimal play would be possible late in the 2027 season. The actual cost for the project, including TT PW costs, will be tabulated after the project is accepted by TT.

Additional parking is needed. The CKS proposal to the Township will be retained pending 2026 funding and project initiation. Prior to any work, the plan will be re-visited to explore ways to retain three mature trees and get maximal increase in the number of parking spaces. The OSPAC preferences for the site are cited by reference to the minutes of the 09SEP2025 meeting.

6.2.3 Planting Trees in 2025 and 2026

The tree planting locations for 2025 are staked out and the nursery stock will be installed by David Brothers nursery in November. The budget for 2026 of \$25,000 is approved.

6.2.4 Veterans Park Development Plans

Access to the park is still the major impediment to progress. It is being discussed with PSDC. There was no change in status reported.

6.2.5 OSPAC Email and Cloud Storage of Documents

There is no substantive change to the Google Drive. Agendas and minutes have been added. An action for Dr. Costlow and Mr. Meehan remains, i.e., to create a structure for storing the OSPAC records currently with Mr. Meehan..

OSPAC members have the hyperlink to the drive and editor-level access to facilitate information sharing. OSPAC members are encouraged to copy the OSPAC email on documents they share with the OSPAC. The email is [Towamencin.OSPAC@Gmail.com].

6.2.6 OSPAC Meeting with Brookside Farms Community

Township Admin. Office will send a letter to all residents (48) announcing a meeting with OSPAC in FEB2026 to discuss court resurfacing at Valley View Way cul-du-sac for basketball and pop-up pickleball.

6.2.7 OSPAC Meeting with Heebner Way Community

Township Admin. Office will send a letter to all residents announcing a meeting with OSPAC in MAR2026 to discuss court re-lining to accommodate dual use of the paved space for tennis and pop-up pickleball at Heebner Park. Paint lines for one or two pickleball courts and retain tennis.

6.2.8 Township policy for memorials in township parks

The policy was reviewed and discussed [Ref. Towamencin Township Memorial Program Tree or Bench]. A motion was made by Dr. Costlow for OSPAC to suggest to the Township that they issue a reminder about memorial personalization in Township parks and include the current regulation as part of it [bullet #13 of the current program guidance]. Second by Mr. DeHaven. Votes on the motion were 7 aye and 1 nay; the motion carried.

6.2.9 Township policy for dogs in township parks

The policy was reviewed and discussed. Township policy is that all dogs must be leashed in parks. OSPAC suggested, specifically for the now-improved Grist Mill park, that in addition to the leash rule consideration be given for signage to be installed to prohibit dogs in the park play areas with or without a leash. No motion was made for adoption; the topic was tabled until after the park opens to the public and we see what dog owner activity occurs.

6.2.10 Township ordinances for open space requirements

A composite of reviews of the components of the Township Code that relate to "open space" was distributed Mr. Meehan. The objective is to compile all the requirements for open space in residential and commercial zoning. For the Main Street Overlay ordinance decision scheduled for BOS 12NOV2025 a wide-ranging discussion ensued. The OSPAC focus is to require developers to conform to the Township Code and provide active recreational space, not just open space. The Chair requested members review the document and be prepared for further discussion in December.

6.3 GRANT APPLICATION UPDATES

6.3.1 Pickleball Courts at Butch Clemens Park

Due to the Harrisburg budget impasse in the legislature no funding decisions are being made.

No change in grant status since last meeting.

Grants submitted are below; no response from DCNR or DCED

DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2)

[\$533,973 APR2025 request]

DCED Greenways Trails & Recreation Program (GTRP)

[\$250,000 MAY2025 request]

Proposed 2026 budget request includes \$63,000 for engineering design for the site.

Decision is expected late in 2025.

6.3.2 Grist Mill Park Connector Path from Grist Mill Drive to the Park

No change since last meeting; grants submitted; no response from DCNR or DCED

DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2)

[\$159,012 APR2025 request]

DCED Greenway Trails & Recreation Program (GTRP)

[\$250,000 MAY2025 request]

Decision is expected late in 2025.

6.3.3 Kriebel Road Trail Phase III

The \$250K grant application under the Montgomery County 2040 Program was not funded.

The Township WILL re-apply for an identical grant in 2026, possibly using a different consultant to write the grant. This Kriebel Road Trail III [KRT3] extension will run from the terminus of the current trail near the Towamencin Municipal Authority, across Bustard Road, and connect to the existing trail in Fischer Park.

6.3.4 PECO Green Region Grant

This grant application for \$7,000 was submitted 07NOV2025. OSPAC will be informed on the PECO decision when it is made. Decision is expected in early 2026.

Agenda Item 7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Towamencin Township Comprehensive Plan

A Comprehensive Plan for Towamencin Township was prepared in 2025; it currently exists in draft form. A review by the BOS to finalize the plan is scheduled for 2026. The proposed development in Towamencin will cause the plan to be amended. How do we do that?

Agenda Item 8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other new business topics or discussions, Mr. Meehan entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Becker and seconded by Ms. Blake.

Votes on the motion were 8 aye and 0 nay; the motion carried unanimously.

The November 10, 2025 meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Richard D. Costlow

Vice Chair, Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee

Next Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting – December 8, 2025