



**Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of the February 09, 2026 Meeting**

In Attendance:

Joseph Meehan, Chair
Dr. Richard Costlow, Vice Chair
Robert DeHaven
Todd Fisher
Todd Montgomery

Dave Sponseller
Katie Cleary – Township Events Coordinator
Kristen Warner — Board of Supervisors Liaison

Excused:

Michon Blake
Joe Rumsey

Other Attendees:

Nancy Becker
Residents of Valley View Way
 Frank Arcade 3004
 Karl Kraus 2014
 Ken Bazar 2006
 Barb Bazar 2006
 Brian Gibson 2022

Monique Gibson 2022
Paul Andrews 3013
Wendy Napoleon 2012 and

Dennis McGeehan 1211 Knollbrook Dr.

Agenda Item 1.. MEETING FORMALITIES

The Chairperson, Mr. Meehan, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. All present participated in the pledge of allegiance. The 09FEB2026 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 and Dr. Costlow 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 05FEB2026 and provided an update on items of interest to the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSPAC). Discussion of other issues was deferred to the topics in the agenda.

Agenda Item 4.. APPROVAL OF OSPAC MINUTES – Meeting of 19JAN2026

There were no additions or corrections to the draft minutes from the 19JAN2026. A motion to approve the draft minutes was voiced by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mr. DeHaven. Votes on the motion were 6 aye and 0 nay; the motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5.. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A resident of 2006 Valley View Way, Mr. Bazar, requested that a new or additional entryway to the Kriebel Road trail be created in the cull-du-sac of Valley View Way so that people will stop using his driveway apron as that entryway. He noted that individuals have fallen on the ice and that the bicycle traffic of juveniles is a nuisance in warmer weather. The OSPAC noted the complaint and will relay it to the Township Manager for remediation. An inquiry was made about the status of the connector trail from the KRT to Spring Valley Road. The OSPAC indicated that the connector trail requires an engineering plan due to the steepness of the grade along the connector trail and that there was money in the 2026 budget to get that plan completed. Trail construction can start after the plan is completed and accepted by the Board of Supervisors. There were no further comments from the public. The discussion moved to the Valley View Way item on the agenda.

Agenda Item 6.. OLD BUSINESS**6.A CONSIDER USES FOR COURTS AT VALLEY VIEW WAY CUL-DE-SAC**

A brief history of the courts' use, current condition, and the status of the refurbishment plan was provided by Mr. Meehan. The OSPAC requested that the group reach a neighborhood consensus on how to proceed with the refurbishment. After an extensive discussion with the residents attending, the consensus was reached. The Township should not install a permanent pickleball net nor build a playground area. The Township should pave both the existing basketball court and the existing pop-up pickleball court. Both courts should be refurbished with an appropriate type of surface for court play, grading should accommodate water runoff, and the courts should have lines painted on them. Lines for playing pickleball should be done on one court. Dual sport lines for playing basketball and pickleball should be done on the court currently set up for basketball. A new and "quieter" backboard for basketball, like those at Gristmill Park, should be considered as a noise reduction action for the neighborhood. There should not be rental or reserved scheduling of either court by the Township. Both courts are, and will remain, open to all Township residents or guests. They are intended for informal pop-up play on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A comment was made that one or more teams use the basketball court for organized practice in the warm months. It could not be ascertained who practiced or how often this occurred. It was suggested that the residents inform the Township if this becomes a problem.

6.B PROJECT UPDATES**6.B.1 Grist Mill Park Recreational Improvements**

The park is snow-covered. Regrettably, an extension of the grant was necessary due to delays in the contractor's work. The extension was approved, all project items will be completed, and an opening is anticipated in the Spring.

6.B.2 Green Lane Road Park Soccer Field

Site is over-wintering. Work for 2026 by Land Tec Enterprises will resume in Spring. A proposal to fund the engineering for the parking lot is an agenda item for the Board of Supervisors 10FEB meeting. If funded, the CKS Engineering firm will consult with the OSPAC to develop the final parking lot and access plan.

6.B.3 Connector Trail - Grist Mill Drive to Grist Mill Park

The grant application for this project was approved at \$159,000 for the projected \$310,000 project. It is a fund-matching grant. Towamencin will need to match this DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program [C2P2] grant with internal budget expenditures or obtain an additional grant to complete the project [see agenda item 6.C.2.]. The CKS engineering firm was authorized to proceed with the additional grant application under the Montgomery County 2040 [MontCo40] Plan. A resolution to that effect is on the 10FEB agenda for the BOS.

6.B.4 Veterans Park Development Plans

Access to the park is still the major impediment to progress. All action on the proposed new entrance is delayed pending the outcome of discussions with Montgomery County Planning Commission about the open space land trade-off required to accommodate the entrance. There was no other change in status or commitment reported by Towamencin, the Veteran's Committee, CKS, or PSDC. It is clear a 2026 start will not occur.

6.B.5 Memorial Policy for memorials in township parks

The policy reminder was posted on the Towamencin website. The Township will communicate via letter to sponsors of a memorial in Fischer's Park who are not in compliance with the policy. It is hoped that overall compliance with the policy [Ref. Towamencin Township Memorial Program Tree or Bench and bullet #13 of the current program guidance] will be achieved.

6.B.6 Evansburg Park Master Plan

The Township was advised that any proposal to develop a master plan for the Evansburg State Park is not within the purview of the Skippack Creek Watershed Alliance. It was suggested that Towamencin and the several other townships which are members of the Alliance pursue this with the Pennsylvania State DCNR or other appropriate agency as a consortium of interested townships in conjunction with Montgomery County. Pennsylvania State would be the entity that needs to (a) authorize the development of any plan and (b) allocate funds for its implementation. The current fiscal condition of PA suggests this would not be a high priority project for them. The value of a master plan for Towamencin's

Fisher's Park and as a guide any future development of the 300-acre state park was recognized, but no formal action was taken.

6.B.7 Towamencin Township Comprehensive Plan

The draft of the Comprehensive Plan [dated August 2025] has not been finalized. Ms. Warner reported that some modifications were made to the plan and the topic will be on the BOS agenda soon [possibly 11MAR] for the public meeting. She stated she views the plan as a snapshot in time, not an endorsed plan for the future. She expressed concern about property rights and does not endorse all the proposals stated in the Comprehensive Plan particularly the zoning suggestions. Another critique of the plan arose from Mr. Fisher, who stated that the plan is internally contradictory in some places [unspecified].

6.B.8 Newsletter Article

The chair thanked Dr. Costlow for writing the article for OSPAC that focused on Grist Mill Park and Veterans memorial Park. It has been submitted to the Township for publication.

6.B.9 Recommendations for Usable Open Space in the Freddy Hill and Walton Farm Development Projects

Prior meetings of Messrs. Meehan, Costlow, and Montgomery brainstormed a plan for OSPAC consideration. From those discussions the Chair made several suggestions at the OSPAC meeting, the primary one being that the two abutting developments, Freddy Hill and Walton Farm, should be considered together for usable community open space.

The open space should be planned as a neighborhood-scale park or, preferably, a group of neighborhood park areas open to the public with adequate street and pedestrian access and off-street parking. The open space should take full advantage, where possible, of the existing topography of the land, available woodlands, riparian and aquatic areas, and available grassland. All proposed storm water management units [SMU] should be constructed to be compatible with and augment space for a mix of intentionally landscaped areas to facilitate small group gatherings, recreational areas with installed recreational equipment, natural areas to preserve habitat, and wide-open spaces with tree plantings to effect both visual appeal and economical site maintenance. Trails through or around these areas should be interconnected to facilitate short or long walks and be surfaced with materials appropriate for their location and use [e.g., pavement, gravel, or wood chips]. Trails should also augment the wider concept of park connectivity to all areas of open space in Towamencin.

A slide-based representation of the plan was presented at the meeting by Mr. Montgomery [a copy of the presentation is included by reference; it resides with these minutes in the cloud storage space the OSPAC members share].

The presentation captured the discussions held between Messrs. Meehan, Costlow, and Montgomery to outline an overall vision for the usable proposed Open Space. The vision, if realized, will create a community facility within the combined land developments that will accommodate all the above.

6.C Grant Application Updates

6.C.1 Pickleball Courts at Butch Clemens Park

The grants submitted to DCNR and DCED for construction of pickleball courts at Butch Clemens Park were denied. A resubmission in 2026 is suggested and expected. The Township is not aware of any grant program to which an application can be made, so this project is likely dead unless and until some grant funding can be realized.

DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) *[\$533,973 APR2025 request]*
DCED Greenways Trails & Recreation Program (GTRP) *[\$250,000 MAY2025 request]*

6.C.2 Connector Trail Grist Mill Park

The grant submitted to DCNR under the C2P2 program [\$159K] for construction of the connector from Grist Mill Drive to Grist Mill Park was approved. OSPAC had recommended Towamencin Township match the funding and begin construction in 2026. The decision of the BOS is to seek additional grant funding under the Montgomery County 2040 [MontCo 40] Program.

DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) *[\$159,012 APR2025 request]*

6.C.3 Kriebel Road Trail III

The grants submitted to DCNR and DCED for this project were denied. A resubmission in 2026 was suggested. The CKS Engineering company is projected to be the writing consultant and the grant will go through the DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) [~\$160,000 - due date is 30APR2026]. 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.C.4 PECO Green Region Grant [*this item was carried from the 19JAN minutes*]

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**

There was no other new business to discuss.

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 Dr. Costlow and seconded by Mr. DeHaven. Votes on the motion were 6 aye and 0 nay; the motion carried unanimously. The February 09, 2026 meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Richard D. Costlow
Vice Chair, Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee

Next Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting – March 9, 2026