

AGENDA

Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan

Wednesday March 13, 2019

6:00 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

277 Pine Grove Road

1. Discussion of Potential Conveyance of Township Property to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

At the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors meeting on March 4, 2019, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) discussed potential conveyance of Township property to the Bureau of Forestry. The property is located on Pine Grove Mountain, adjacent to existing Commonwealth property. If conveyed, the property would be managed by DCNR. The Township has requested that the Pine Grove Mills Small Area Plan Committee provide any comments on the proposed conveyance to the Township Board of Supervisors.

The parcels owned by Ferguson Township total 61.06 acres and are located at the base of Pine Grove Mountain, adjacent to the Pine Grove Mills residential areas. The parcels are 19.45 and 41.61 acres, respectively (see attachment). Both parcels are entirely woodland, and the larger of the two contains steep slopes and a section of Slab Cabin Run.

The Township was awarded a grant from DCNR to have a Forest Stewardship Plan completed for the properties. The plan, completed in 2005, identifies the attributes of the property including soil types, slopes, forest composition, and recommended stewardship activities. To date, the Township has postponed any active land management activities on the properties including invasive species control, trail development, and timber harvesting. The Township is being asked to consider conveying the land as a donation, but the Commonwealth would consider purchasing the land for a value to be determined if the Board were interested in requesting compensation for the properties.

The Board of Supervisor did not take any action regarding the properties at the March 4, 2019 Board meeting. There is an opportunity for Ferguson Township to retain land ownership. Should the Board wish to own and maintain the property, further discussion will be needed to determine how to best to maintain the parcels. Should the Board wish to discuss conveying the property they would have the opportunity to negotiate shared use

and forest management plan goals for the Township's best interest and include Small Area Plan goals in the forest management plan.

It is anticipated that Laura Dininni will introduce the item. The Township Arborist and DCNR representative will be available to answer questions.

The PGM SAP Steering Committee should discuss concerns, provide comments, and recommend ways these properties can be utilized to achieve PGM SAP goals. This will be forwarded to the Township Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

Attachments:

1. Agenda item from the March 4, 2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting
2. Aerial showing location of the parcels
3. Alignment Meeting Summary
4. January 10, 2019 Meeting Summary

2. Discussion of "Gateway" Theme

At the January 10, 2019 meeting, the committee discussed the Gateway Theme. There was some discussion of what specifically is meant by the term Gateway.

Attachment 4 from the previous item provides a summary of items pertaining to the Gateway theme at the meeting and can be utilized for this item.

The committee should come to consensus on how to define the term gateway.

3. Partial Draft of Goals, Objectives and Actions

The CRPA will distribute a partially completed draft of goals, objectives and actions as soon as possible.

The committee should discuss the partial draft at the meeting.

4. Review Upcoming Meeting Schedule and Milestones

April 3, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

- Review, provide comment, and reach consensus on the content of the Final Draft Small Area Plan
- Determine future dates for any additional informational meetings, or when a formal presentation and action could be taken by the Ferguson Township Board of Supervisors

Potential future meeting dates

- May 1, 2019, June 5, 2019