

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

June 18, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

Solebury Township Hall/Virtual - Hybrid Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Sally Drayer, Vice Chair; George Ashford; Elaine Crooks; Phil Johnson; John DeSpirito; John Francis, Supervisor Liaison; Terry Clemons; LPC Solicitor; and Kate Robeson-Grubb, Sustainability & Administrative Specialist were in attendance.

Absent: Kurt Leasure, Chair; Joseph Tartaglia

Public: Melanie Ganim, Solebury Township

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Sally Drayer at 6:00 PM.

Approval of May 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Upon a Motion made by Phil Johnson, seconded by George Ashford, the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee unanimously approved the May 19, 2026 meeting minutes.

Public Relations/Sub-Committee

Vice Chair Sally Drayer presented the Public Relations Subcommittee report and discussed the website update. She noted that updates are continuing on the committee's website pages and that progress has been delayed due to work commitments and travel; however, the project remains underway. Ms. Drayer indicated that she would review the completed work, and the committee anticipates reviewing the updated website at the next meeting.

The committee continued discussion on outreach materials that includes presentation folders and informational brochures for community outreach. A printing estimate from Fort Nassau Graphics was obtained for the proposed materials. Members noted that the initial quotation for the presentation folders was substantially higher than anticipated. Ms. Drayer reported that, after discussing the estimate directly with the printer, it was determined that several premium printing specifications had been included that had not been requested. The printer indicated that alternative production methods, including digital printing, may reduce costs and agreed to prepare a revised estimate. Members discussed anticipated printing quantities and agreed that an initial order of approximately 50 presentation folders would likely meet projected needs over the next several years. The committee also discussed printing a larger quantity of informational

brochures for use at public meetings, community events, Township outreach activities, and distribution within the Township building.

The committee further noted that the brochure contains general program information and is not expected to become outdated in the near future. Members encouraged one final review prior to printing and expressed general support for the brochure's content and presentation. Elaine Crooks offered to review the updated website once it is available.

Comprehensive Plan Committee Update

Elaine Crooks reported that presentation of the Comprehensive Plan to the Board of Supervisors has been postponed until July to allow additional time for refinement. Relevant portions of the draft relating to land preservation were made available for committee review, with additional printed copies to be distributed before the conclusion of the meeting. Ms. Crooks advised that recent Comprehensive Plan discussions focused primarily on environmental matters and the Route 202 corridor, with relatively few changes proposed to the land preservation section.

Members discussed comments regarding the use of the term "preservation" within the draft. The committee noted that "Land Preservation" remains the established name of the committee while acknowledging that alternative terminology may be appropriate in certain portions of the Comprehensive Plan. It was indicated that approximately two additional meetings are anticipated before the Comprehensive Plan is presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Parks & Rec Open Space & Trails Comprehensive Plan Update

Vice Chair Drayer reported that there was no substantive Parks and Recreation update since the Parks & Recreation next scheduled meeting had not yet occurred. Members briefly discussed a recent newspaper article concerning planning efforts related to Lake Solebury and noted that several Township committees are represented in that initiative. The committee discussed whether representation from the Land Preservation Committee would also be appropriate. Members noted that appointments to the Lake Solebury committee were made through an established selection process. A member offered to discuss the matter with Township staff to better understand the current liaison structure and committee representation. It was also noted that meetings of the Lake Solebury committee are open to the public.

General Discussion

Sally Drayer introduced Melanie Ganim, who attended the meeting to observe committee proceedings and to express her interest in future service on the Land Preservation Committee. At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Ganim introduced herself and provided an overview of her background and interest in land preservation and community service and has been active in local

community organizations and activities. She advised the Committee that she remains interested in contributing to Township volunteer efforts and described her longstanding interest in conservation and community planning, noting that she was raised on a family farm where she developed an appreciation for agriculture, land stewardship, and preserving natural resources.

She also expressed her appreciation for the Township's agricultural heritage, artistic history, and community character, and stated that she hopes to contribute to preserving those qualities for future generations. She noted that she regularly follows the Committee's work by reviewing meeting minutes, newsletters, and information posted on the Township website, and that land preservation is a frequent topic of discussion within her neighborhood. If appointed in the future, she would seek to support existing committee priorities rather than duplicate current efforts.

Committee members responded that public outreach and increasing community awareness of land preservation opportunities remain important priorities. Members noted that individuals who are active within the community can help expand awareness of preservation programs and educational efforts. Ms. Ganim thanked the committee for the opportunity to introduce herself and advised that her contact information was included with her résumé should members have additional questions.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Confidential Property Reviews

Committee members provided updates on properties in the process of acquisition and those being prepared for outreach efforts.

The Committee discussed the Windy Bush/Pidcock Creek roads Sketch Plan that proposed seven single-family lots on a 38.25-acre tract that was scheduled to be reviewed at the upcoming June 22, 2026 Planning Commission meeting. As residents of the Township (not as representatives of the LPC), several Committee members expressed interest in attending the meeting to voice their concerns.

Adjournment

Upon a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, John Ives