

**THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
2:00 PM  
1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA 16801  
1st Floor Meeting Room**

**ATTENDED BY:**

Bill Keough, Chair  
Earl Moore, Vice Chair  
Mark Bergstrom  
Deb Hilands  
William Ray

**STAFF/OTHERS:**

Lance King, State College Borough  
Mike Bloom, College Township

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Keough called to order the January 14, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee at 2:02 PM.

**REORGANIZATION:**

Serving as Interim Chair Mr. Bloom called for nominations for the roles of Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Bergstrom made the nomination to retain Bill Keough as Chair and Earl Moore as Vice Chair, Ms. Hilands seconded the motion. There were no further nominations. There was a unanimous vote for this slate of officers.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Moore mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Committee was introduced to new Community and Economic Development Director Keri Kenepf. He asked if she would be a resource for the Thompson Woods Preserve Governance Committee. Mr. Bloom noted that she would and he would ask her to attend an upcoming meeting.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Moore made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the December 10, 2025, meeting, Mr. Ray seconded. Approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS: Forest Restoration Plan Update**

Mr. Bloom noted that Mr. Wolf supplied him with a draft of the Forest Restoration Plan Update. Mr. Keough, Mr. King and Mr. Bloom will do an initial detailed review to determine if there is anything missing/required before getting it in front of the Committee in February.

Upon a cursory review, it appears that Mr. Wolf has prepared a solid plan that may need some fine tuning in certain areas. Mr. Keough noted that Option 1 in the plan was around \$73,000, which is a big number, but still seems doable. He further noted that a fair amount of the overstory is actual invasive species.

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Mr. Bergstrom is looking for the plan to flow appropriately. Existing conditions to goals to the implementation steps to achieve the goals.

Mr. Moore asked if the plan included any notable risks. Mr. King highlighted that the primary risk is continued deterioration and that less diversity in species presents a risk if there is a disease that impacts one of the more prevalent species in the forest.

Mr. Ray asked Mr. King about the work conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, particularly why it didn't do all of the Borough land. Mr. King noted that they completed the work that was in their proposal.

**OLD BUSINESS: Signage**

Mr. Keough pointed to the attachment, noting that there are two primary types of signs, entrance/wayfinding and interpretative. Mr. Ray felt interior signage should be fairly simple with QR Codes. Mr. Bergstrom felt the first design was well done and would create a brand for the Preserve that would differentiate it from the Walnut Springs Park.

Mr. Moore noted a caution in signs, as it takes continual maintenance to keep them in good condition. Mr. King agreed, maintenance would need to be factored into any sign installation.

Mr. Bloom shared that this discussion will ultimately need to work toward a proposal to the Councils. Timing and scheduling will be a key factor in how this advances in order to hit grant rounds and municipal budget cycles. He also noted the difference in the sign types, even amongst entrance and wayfinding.

Ms. Hilands noted that the Oak Ridge entrance is getting more popular, but there would need to be signs at off of Walnut Springs Lane and by the bridge at Your Building Center.

Mr. Keough would like to see a document/proposal that lays out the parameters of the signage, including potential design, content and installation locations.

Mr. Bloom will ask Shane Adams to map the locations. In the interim, the Committee can start its work on the other parameters for signs.

**NEW BUSINESS: Committee Structure**

Mr. Bloom noted that the Committee has discussed the prospect of potentially reconfiguring the committee structure, with a likely outcome being consolidated into one committee. Following discussion, the Committee asked Mr. Bloom to draft a proposal for them to react to at the next meeting. The basic premise of the proposal would be eliminating the Advisory Committee, but inviting those members to join as Ex-Officio members of the Governance Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS: FirstEnergy Tree Program**

Mr. Keough pointed out the flyer included in the agenda packet about the Tree Program run by FirstEnergy. Members noted that while a little pre-mature for discussion currently, this program may be of benefit in the future once mitigation of invasives begins.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Keough accepted a motion from Mr. Ray to adjourn the January 14, 2026 meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Moore. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,  
Mike Bloom  
College Township Assistant Manager