

**THOMPSON WOODS PRESERVE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
2:00 PM
1481 E. College Avenue, State College PA 16801
1st Floor Meeting Room**

ATTENDED BY:

Bill Keough, Chair
Mark Bergstrom
Deb Hilands
William Ray (at 2:25)

STAFF/OTHERS:

Lance King, State College Borough
Suzy Yetter, Clearwater Conservancy
Keri Kenepp, College Township
Mike Bloom, College Township

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Keough called to order the March 11, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee at 2:00 PM.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Ms. Hilands noted that there were several deer carcasses in the Preserve. It was noted that staff would touch base with Jim Carpenter and Amy Kerner about this and determine what protocol exists.

Mr. King noted that the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be back in the Walnut Springs Park in March to finish work on the acreage that was not addressed last year.

Mr. Bloom formally introduced Keri Kenepp, College Township’s Community and Economic Development Director. Mrs. Kenepp will be a resource to assist the Committee in the future with strategic planning and grant initiatives.

MINUTES:

Mr. Bergstrom made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the January 14, 2026, meeting, Ms. Hilands seconded. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Forest Restoration Plan Update

The Governance Committee reviewed the Draft Forest Restoration Plan as prepared by Mike Wolf. The following comments were shared:

- Only option that is not acceptable is Option 4 (Do nothing)
- Members felt Option 1 was most effective, but recognized it may be cost prohibitive and cause significant public concern over Preserve closure and initial impacts.
- Members generally preferred Option 2 for its ability to have a measurable impact on forest health and for community educational purposes.
- Members liked the idea of a demonstration project as a first step, potentially in the upper section of the Preserve.

February 11, 2026

Page 2 of 2

- Some concern over sustainability of long-term maintenance.
- Potential exists for a hybrid option that takes elements from each option presented.
- Investigations into grants would be beneficial, as this work may require multiple.
- Sequencing of work will be important, as it's a balance between restoring understory and removing overstory.
- Technical advice from the Advisory Committee would be appreciated. DCNR will need to be onboard as well.

Mr. Bergstrom made a motion to remand the Forest Restoration Plan Update to the Advisory Committee for their review and comment. Ms. Hilands seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: Signage

In the interest of time, Chair Keough deferred this item but asked the Committee to be thinking of signage content.

OLD BUSINESS: Committee Structure

Mr. Bergstrom felt the proposal as presented represented the Committee's previous discussions well. Discussion about Clearwater Conservancy being an ex-officio or voting member was discussed, Ms. Yetter will discuss with leadership. Some consideration should be given to inviting West Penn Power to serve as an ex-officio member as well.

Mr. Bergstrom made a motion to remand the Committee Structure Proposal to the Advisory Committee for their review and comment. Ms. Hilands seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Keough accepted a motion from Mr. Bergstrom to adjourn the February 11, 2026 meeting of the Thompson Woods Preserve – Governance Committee, which was seconded by Ms Hilands. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted By,
Mike Bloom
College Township Assistant Manager