# Meeting Minutes: Silver Spring Township

**Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan Conservation & Trails Forum**

**Date:** February 11, 2016  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Silver Spring Township Municipal Building Annex  
**By:** Ann Yost  
**Project No.:** 15SSP-01

## Persons Attending:
- Kristy Owens, Silver Spring Township Parks & Recreation Manager  
- Theresa Eberly, Silver Spring Township Manager  
- Carl Machamer, Silver Spring Township Supervisor  
- Joe Neville, Keystone Trails Association  
- Don Albright, Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited  
- Susan Miller, Appalachian Audubon  
- Cheryl Capitoni, Harrisburg Bicycle Club  
- Gill & Laura Freedman, Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association  
- David Powel, Harrisburg Bicycle Club  
- Marilyn Chastek, Harrisburg Bicycle Club  
- Stephanie Williams, Cumberland County Planning Commission  
- Katie Hess, South Mountain Partnership/Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
- Jim Bennett, Silver Spring Township Planning Department  
- Ann Toole, Toole Recreation Planning  
- Ann Yost, YSM

## Purpose of Meeting:
To discuss conservation and trail issues, ideas, and opportunities within Silver Spring Township.

## Of Record:

1. Everyone present introduced themselves and their conservation or trail initiative/interest.
2. A. Yost reviewed the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan project and the purpose for the Conservation & Trail Forum.
3. The following is a summary of the group discussion –
   - Open space conservation in general promotes protection of the Conodoguinet Creek watershed.
   - Conodoguinet Creek provides recreation opportunities for anglers, hunters, bird watchers, and paddlers.
Pennsylvania American Water draws water from the Conodoguinet Creek.

There are access issues with the Conodoguinet Creek. More access is needed for fishing and water trail activities.

Homeowner education would be helpful to promote an understanding of the best practices when working in a riparian area.

The Township has recently hired an MS4 coordinator.

Lancaster County has developed an outreach program, “Save It!”, a water quality education initiative for landowners and local businesses.

Connect green space as wildlife corridors. Cumberland County has established conservation priorities. S. Williams offered to provide information and maps on the County priorities.

The existing Growing Greener ordinance within the SALDO identifies constrained lands.

It is important to acquire easements that connect residential developments that have interior trails. Easements should be sought from willing landowners.

The Township should consider promoting homeowner initiatives such as the use of rain barrels, rain gardens, and native plantings. Chesapeake Alliance has educational information on these initiatives.

Consider retrofitting retention/detention ponds as rain gardens.

Hampden Township will be holding an MS4 Festival as an outreach initiative to residents about water quality.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has a large landscape conservation initiatives that identifies 10 priority landscapes.

The Pennsylvania Audubon Society is spearheading the Kittatinny Ridge (North Mountain) preservation project. Central PA Conservancy is acquiring key open space parcels along the corridor.

North Mountain is a significant natural landscape feature. The view to North Mountain is important. The pending PPL power lines could affect the aesthetic, economic, and personal values of the viewshed. J. Neville will provide a PPL contact for the consulting team to interview. A 100’ easement is proposed for the PPL utility line, which will span from Upper Allen Township to the Carlisle Barracks. Currently three different routes are under consideration, but it will go through Silver Spring Township.

A second utility easement is planned for the southern portion of the Township. The easement will carry a natural gas pipeline. The line will tunnel under Appalachian Drive and extend to the PA Turnpike.

Hogestown Run is an important stream but trout cannot get past an existing dam.

The streams on the southern portion of the township (Letort, Hogestown, Trindel Run) have native fish and their watersheds should be protected. These streams are underlain by limestone which maintains cooler water but is susceptible to pollutants.
• Additional warehouses are pending in the New Kingston area and are permitted by ordinance. The number of warehouses in the future is of concern for the township in terms of land development and traffic impact.

• It is important to work with adjoining municipalities and the County on conservation and trail initiatives.

• The 911 Trail will extend through the Cumberland Valley on the CVRT.

• Think broadly about conservation to include heritage – history and culture.

• The trails in Carmello are built too small and do not extend beyond the development.

• Cumberland County has a GIS trail layer of trails of one-mile in length or longer.

• It is important to develop buffers between home sites and trails in developments.

• Trails are important from a tourism perspective.

• There are no abandoned railroads or trolley corridors in Silver Spring Township.

• Road cyclists enjoy riding the roads in Silver Spring Township. It is important the road shoulders are wide and clear of debris and gravel to be suitable for road cycling.

• The right turn lanes on the Carlisle Pike are dangerous for cyclists.

• There was much discussion and considerable concern about Carlisle Pike and bicycling. The Carlisle Pike is a destination for commercial establishments in the Township that is not accessible to pedestrians and cyclists. Consider opportunities to provide pedestrian and bicycle access to the rear of these establishments. Consider developing parallel roads behind shopping areas similar to behind Wegman’s for local traffic and pedestrians/cyclists.

• Complete Streets concepts should be used as a planning tool and implemented.

• Mechanicsburg School District’s Trails & Trees Environmental Center is the closest to the municipality.

• Route 114 is a bike barrier.

• The municipal Official Map should be used to review linkage potential.

• Bike racks or indoor bike parking should be provided at retail/commercial establishments.

• The Harrisburg Bicycle Club has 700 members.