



Tinicum Township Newsletter

Published by the Board of Supervisors

Spring 2006

www.tinicumbucks.org

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Visit our website:

www.tinicumbucks.org

For hearing notices,
Bridge updates,
Application forms for zoning,
building, open space, etc.,
Community calendar updates,
and to view the
Newsletter photos in color!

Plan Protects Tinicum's Rich Resources: A Five Year Open Space Progress Report

How has Tinicum progressed from 15% of our resources protected in 2000, to 26% in just five years?

When Bucks County passed its Open Space Bond Referendum in 1997, the Supervisors immediately appointed an Open Space Commission to draft an Open Space Plan, which the County had to approve before any of our \$501,831 could be spent.

While other Bucks County municipalities quickly drafted a plan and spent their allotted funds, Tinicum spent three years

mapping our resources and establishing priorities for their protection.

Rather than spend the funds on the purchase of a small parcel of land, the OSC chose to stretch our buying power by purchasing the development rights to properties with important resources.

This issue of the Newsletter features our progress in protecting these resources and in obtaining additional funds to facilitate the implementation of the Open Space Plan, which was adopted by Tinicum Township in August 2000.



Land protection began in 1992

A program of resource protection by conservation easements had been in operation in Tinicum since 1992, when residents formed the Tinicum Conservancy, which began working with landowners to voluntarily place easements on important natural features.

By 2000, the development rights to 151 acres had been donated by private landowners. The Conservancy was also responsible for monitoring easements on an additional 533 acres granted to the township during development approvals. With County Open Space Funds available in 2000, Tinicum was able to provide financial incentive to owners of lands with important natural resources. Some concern was expressed that landowners would no longer donate their development rights

once funding was available, but by the end of 2005 an additional 906 acres had been donated by generous owners who valued the preservation of their land.

Another 525 acres are protected by deed restrictions and lands owned by the Heritage Conservancy, while state, county and township parklands comprise 1915 acres.

Add to these sums the 895 acres which have been protected by landowners who have received partial compensation for their donations, and Tinicum can now count a total of 5109 acres protected by various means. This is an increase of 2147 acres since the adoption of the Open Space Plan in August of 2000, and represents 26 percent of Tinicum's land.

~ Pat Whitacre

Supervisors' Corner

Upper Bucks Regional Emergency Medical Service

UBREMS is Tinicum's primary response organization for medical emergencies and transportation to region hospitals. This fine group of medical professionals responds to our medical emergencies in an average of 11 minutes. Their station nearest to us is in Revere on Rt. 611.

UBREMS is facing a financial crisis that, if not resolved soon, will result in reduced service and a substantial increase in response time.

Supervisors of several municipalities served by UBREMS have met with them to discuss how they can either reduce costs or enhance revenues. We will meet again next month to review their progress.

A few disturbing facts have emerged. UBREMS is required by law to respond to every call for service. Residents who subscribe annually receive this service at no charge.

Nevertheless, only a small percentage of the homes served by UBREMS are annual subscribers, and a substantial number of non-subscribers who have received emergency medical care have failed to pay their bills.

Annual subscription notices are in the mail this month. If you have not received one, please call 610-847-2165.

Police Update We welcome new officer Bill Mooney to the Tinicum Police Force.



Bridge Update Rina Cutler of PennDOT has finally responded to our letter of Nov 1, 2005. PennDOT is prepared to meet with us and our engineering consultant to develop a plan, time schedule, and agreement for the Geigel Hill Road Bridge replacement. PennDOT has stated that they wish to replace this bridge before the Headquarters Road Bridge, which is currently in design, with construction targeted for 2008.

Some 60 residents attended our March 7 Supervisors' meeting to ask questions about the bridges. Supervisors responded, and regular updates are being posted on the Township website.

If you have further questions, you can contact Supervisor Budd at 610-294-1031, or boyceb@aol.com.

Conditional Use Hearings on Rt. 611 Corridor Housing Development Proposals Some residents have asked where the Supervisors stand with respect to the proposed developments. PA State law requires that in Conditional Use Hearings the Supervisors and the Township Solicitor remain impartial and act in the role of judge and jury.

As in a judicial trial, the applicant or developer presents his proposal. The Township, a group comprised of the Township Manager, Planning Commission, other Township Commissions, Township Engineer, other consultants, plus a special Solicitor appointed for this specific assignment, defends the Township's Zoning and other ordinances.

The Supervisors are forbidden by law to discuss these hearings with anyone until they reach their conclusion as to whether or not to grant the applicant's request.

As of April 24, all hearings are "on hold" at the request of applicants. Resumption of hearings will be posted on the Township website.

OIL/GAS DRILLING ATTENTION TINICUM LANDOWNERS:

If you have any thoughts of ever preserving your property, please **do not sign** a gas and oil drilling lease until you have checked with Norm MacArthur 610-294-1097 (Open Space Commission) or Karen Budd 610-294-9069 (Tinicum Conservancy).

Summary of Recent Ordinances

Municipal Curative Amendments

To ensure that Tinicum's ordinances regarding agricultural and planning mandates comply with new legal rulings, the Supervisors worked with township boards and professional planner Thomas Comitta to draft changes, a number of which were adopted last fall. To encourage the continuation of the traditional character and land use pattern in and adjoining Ottsville, a Traditional Village Development Overlay District option was added, as was a Living Community Traditional Neighborhood Overlay. These standards promote adaptive reuse of buildings, discourage demolition of existing viable buildings, and promote context sensitive variations of building types, with single-family detached, single-family attached, and multi-family dwellings conforming with

the scale, height, and proportions existing in Ottsville.

The Supervisors also modified the following: submission requirements for conditional uses, allowable sewage to conform to the Township Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan, standards protecting surface water and ground water resources, and storm-water management. Garden Apartment use B6j was deleted in the Commercial Zoning District, and demolition applications in conjunction with subdivision, land development and conditional use applications now require review and standards for approval by the Supervisors.

Additional Ordinances Enacted

Customer Service Ordinance #167, 9/20/05, authorizes Township to regulate customer service standards of cable operations servicing Tinicum.

Amendment to Traffic Regulations, #168, 9/20/05, establishes Stop Signs "Except Right Turns" on Hollow Horn Road at both intersections with Oak Grove Road.

Living Community Traditional Neighborhood Ordinance #169, 11/15/05, part of Curative Amendments.

Open Space Financing Ordinance #170, 12/20/05, authorizes refinancing of Township indebtedness up to \$4,500,000.

Stormwater Management #171, 12/20/05, amends Ordinance #150, emphasizing practices that utilize, preserve, and restore existing natural landscape features using low impact development techniques, including landscaping options that retain stormwater runoff and enhance recharge. It also specifies the calculation methodology to be used.

Open Space Protection: a Real Bargain for Tinicum

Since Tinicum became eligible for over \$500,000 in County Open Space Funds in 2000, and the passage of the township's own five million dollar bond referendum in 2002, the Open Space Commission has been working diligently to assist our Supervisors in preserving our beautiful and valuable open space resources. Our mission is to identify, evaluate and then recommend action to the Supervisors for their final approval.

We have enjoyed outstanding success, and at a far lower cost per acre than some of our neighboring townships report, thanks to the tremendous generosity of our landowners. Another important factor is the diligent work of our OSC in obtaining grants to assist landowners with their legal and other closing costs, and in finding other sources of funding for the purchase of development rights.

Evaluation process explained

All participating landowners are making a generous contribution--even those who receive some payment from the township or from a county or state program. The OSC evaluates the property to determine its conservation value and recommends to the Supervisors a percentage of the appraised value of the development rights.

This value, determined by a certified appraiser, is the difference between the value of the property without restrictions and the depreciated value with restricted development rights.

Bargain sales defined

Tinicum will pay a maximum of fifty percent of this difference. When a landowner is only being paid a percentage

of the value of the development rights, this is referred to as a "bargain sale." Landowners may be eligible for significant tax benefits for their donated portion of these sales. All of Tinicum's purchased easements have been bargain sales.



Since December of 2004, Tinicum has used just over \$1.66 million in township bond funds to secure development rights on about 425 acres that had appraised at over \$3.6 million. This represents nearly \$2 million dollars of savings, and a cost per acre of \$4,400. We had previously preserved 191 acres with the original County funds, at a cost per acre of \$2,617. In return, all residents are assured that this land will never add to their tax burdens due to its development. Under the terms of several subdivisions, the resulting lots are restricted from further development, which protects an additional 974 acres.

Additional funds obtained

The OSC has also been successful in

obtaining funds under the Natural Areas and Agricultural Preservation aspects of the county's Open Space Program. This has either reduced the township contribution, or increased the amount paid to landowners without additional township funds.

We have received over \$100,000 in these additional funds from the county since December 2004, which has been the difference for some landowners in deciding to place a conservation easement on their property. The OSC continues to search for additional funding to try to stretch our bond issue dollars.

Landowners continue to donate

A number of landowners have opted to donate their development rights outright and have received no payment at all. Several large tracts and some smaller parcels totaling 1058 acres have been preserved in this way. The Tinicum Conservancy has programs that may benefit landowners who wish to donate easements. For further information, contact Conservancy president, Karen Budd, at 610-294-9069.

OSC welcomes inquiries

Landowners who would like to discuss, without obligation, the possibility of a bargain sale with the OSC are encouraged to contact Chair Norm MacArthur at 610-294-1097, or simply fill out an application available at the township office or on the township website.

In either case, bargain sales or outright donations, all Tinicum residents will benefit through the subsequent preservation of Tinicum's natural resources and rural way of life.

Protected Lands in Tinicum Township

CATEGORY	ACRES -8/2000	INCREASE	TOTAL ACRES -3/2006
State Parks	730	+ 151	= 881
County Parks	830	+ 195	= 1025
Tinicum Township Park	8	+ 0	= 8
Private Donated Easements	151	+ 906	= 1057
Subdivision Donations	533	+ 0	= 533
Deed Restricted Lands	409	+ 32	= 441
Agricultural Preservation	185	+ 123	= 308
Heritage Conservancy	84	+ 0	= 84
County Municipal OS Funds		191	= 191
County Natural Areas Funds		159	= 159
Tinicum Township OS Bond Funds		341	= 341
Township + County Natural Areas Funds		81	= 81
TOTALS	2930	+ 2147	= 5109

~ John Cole

“Save Our Water”: a Priority from Penn to Present

From aesthetic to essential, water played a key role in the settlement of Tincicum. The Open Space Plan states as a goal: “To protect ground and surface water resources, our most essential and most vulnerable natural resource.” The watersheds within our boundaries are identified in the Plan as important resources to protect.

William Penn might be recognized as the first to protect land here. When Penn heard reports of an area the Indians called Tincicum, where sparkling streams drained forested ravines, he declared that 7,500 acres in this area were to be reserved for his private manor.

Water determined early settlement

As land companies divided the area for settlement, the earliest building was along streams or near springs in the watersheds of the streams. Streams provided the water to power the settlers’ mills essential for grinding grains and sawing lumber. Today, Randt’s Mill and several Stover Mills survive to remind us of the past, but Fretz Mill, where Headquarters Road crosses Tincicum Creek at Sheephole Road, is long gone.

Farmers needed reliable springs for domestic use, refrigeration, and animal husbandry. Sheephole Road is named for the deep hole in the creek where farmers bathed their sheep before shearing.

Overpeck’s slaughterhouse dumped animal waste into the pristine waters of Tincicum Creek at the Geigel Hill Road Bridge. The abandoned building remains today, and the creek’s water purity recovered, only to be threatened again in the early 1960s by toxic dumps in the headwaters in Nockamixon Township.

Parklands established

By the mid Twentieth Century, Bucks County, recognizing the importance of the waters of the Delaware River and Tohickon Creek for recreational purposes, established several areas of parkland. The Stover family became the first private donors of park land when they donated their home, barn and land along the Delaware to the County for Tincicum Park. Tincicum resident, and renowned author, James Michener donated the High Rocks portion of Stover State Park.

Groundwater becomes important

When the aesthetic value of Tincicum’s creeks attracted new residents in the Twentieth Century who were not dependent upon the land for their income, the groundwater beneath the surface became more widely recognized as an essential element to be protected.

In the late 1970s, Pennsylvania enacted rural residency regulations for septic systems and sewage disposal, which required a minimum of ten acres for a building lot unless the owner could prove the capacity of the ground to percolate sewage on a smaller lot. Subdivision began in Tincicum based on these new regulations, and sand mounds became an approved alternative for smaller lots when the ground could not accommodate in-ground septic systems.

Tincicum’s residents have long recognized the importance

of protecting our water resources. When the township’s Comprehensive Plan was updated in 1993 it contained the results of a survey showing that 99% of respondents in Tincicum considered streams and valleys important to protect.

Tincicum Creek gains protection

Tincicum and Nockamixon residents formed the Tincicum Creek Watershed Association in 1989 to study and prove the purity of the creek and its eligibility for protection as an Exceptional Value stream.

When the state granted this protection in 1995, it gave Tincicum’s Supervisors the right to pass judgment on the design of proposed sewage treatment systems along Rapp Creek, in the headwaters of Tincicum Creek in Nockamixon Township. Similar studies were later conducted to prove the eligibility of the Tohickon Creek for EV status, but these efforts have

been mired in a confusion of bureaucratic red tape for years.

Studies in 2005 revealed nitrates and phosphates in the creek downstream of the sewage treatment plants recently built along a tributary of the Tohickon.

Well water concerns grow

Reports that new high density developments in central Bucks were causing the wells of existing housing to go dry raised local concern. When several years of drought caused some Tincicum wells to go dry, it became obvious that the aquifers upon which we all depend cannot support an unlimited number of houses and other uses.

In 1999, Tincicum, Bridgeton, and Nockamixon Townships formed a Joint Groundwater Water Committee to study the use and protection of our shared water resources.

Tincicum’s water ordinance upheld

In 1998 our Supervisors enacted Ordinance 123, which required that a developer must prove that the additional wells for a proposed subdivision will not affect the existing neighboring wells.

This pioneer ordinance was upheld in a court challenge. Judge David Heckler quoted the ordinance as seeking to “assure the availability of reliable, safe and adequate water supplies to support the intended uses within the capacity of the available water resources and to protect the aquifer.”

Judge Heckler observed, “Indeed, it is hard to envision a more reasonable enactment for a rural township...than the requirement that one who wishes to subdivide and develop land demonstrate that neither those to whom he sells nor those who own nearby properties will be left without safe and adequate supplies of water. The right of each citizen to pure water is enshrined in the very Constitution of the Commonwealth.”

Sewage disposal affects aquifer

Sewage disposal methods affect aquifer recharge. When treated effluent is discharged into a stream, the water flows out to sea instead of being allowed to percolate back into the ground to serve future needs of area wells. All municipalities in



continued from page 4

Pennsylvania are required to have a plan approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Tincicum's updated plan, approved in 2004, states that single on-lot sewage treatment is the highly preferred treatment compatible with Tincicum's geology. Technologies that do not recharge our aquifers are strongly discouraged.

OSC weighs developability

The Supervisors approved the procedure used by the Open Space Commission to evaluate properties proposed for protection. The developability of a property is affected by its groundwater limitations, and impacts the purchase price the township pays for the development rights, or conservation easement, on a parcel. When an

easement is placed on a property, a building envelope -- the area in which buildings are located -- is excluded from the acreage protected by the terms of the easement. The easement language generally precludes the addition of new wells or sewage facilities, except those to service approved structures on the property.

Watershed protection continues

A total of 3900 acres within our important watersheds and wetlands are now permanently protected. Current development proposals would affect approximately 320 acres within the Tohickon Creek watershed. The Open Space Commission hopes to protect additional watershed acreage with our ongoing efforts.

~ Pat Whitacre

Open Space Progress Protects Large Areas of Important Habitats

"Tincicum is fortunate to have natural areas that are still defined by their ecological integrity rather than by their degradation," noted the Brandywine Conservancy during the drafting of the Open Space Plan. The Plan continues, "Before allowing these natural areas to be reduced to a biologically impoverished condition, as evidenced in many overdeveloped municipalities, Tincicum Township has the opportunity to guide growth in a way that retains healthy, functioning natural areas."

A review of the resources mapped in the Plan reveals that impressive progress has been made towards our stated goals. Considerable acreage in the areas identified as Core and Buffer Habitats are now permanently protected.

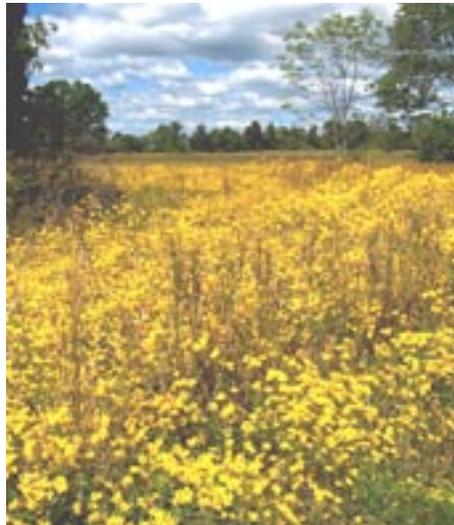
The Tohickon Creek Corridor and the Tincicum Creek Corridor are described as among Tincicum's healthiest and most diverse habitat networks, with a high diversity of forest types and some of the least disturbed upland forest and forested ravine habitats.

Tohickon Creek Corridor includes 736 acres of protected state and county parkland, to which 198 acres of protected private lands have been added. Agricultural easements protect another 149 acres for a total of 1083 acres.

Tincicum Creek Corridor, from the Nockamixon border to the Delaware River, includes 96 acres of County parkland, 725 acres of private lands, and 443 acres of subdivision easements, which total 1168 acres.

Roaring Rocks/Upper Beaver Creek Headwaters Area includes 626 acres of State Game Lands and extends east to Upper Tincicum Church Road and

south to Geigel Hill Road, an expanse of upland forest interior, forested wetlands and swamp habitats with patches of open meadows and lands reverting to forest. Protected private land adds 220 acres, for a total of 846 acres.



Floodplain Quarry and Wetlands includes 151 acres of abandoned quarry south of Jugtown Hill Road, between the 93 acre Delaware Canal and the river. Previously proposed for development as a golf course, it is now the state's new Giving Pond Recreation Area.

The wetland habitat is valuable for both flora and fauna, and the cessation of quarrying has halted the pumping of thousands of gallons of water daily from the aquifer which supports area wells.

The county agricultural preservation program has protected another 158 acres, the county's Tincicum Park adds 200 acres along the river, and a private donation of 24 acres brings the total to 626 acres in this important habitat.

Delaware River Palisades Area extends along Upper Tincicum Church Road, where the development rights for 279 acres of private land have been donated, without compensation, by landowners who value this beautiful stretch of wooded ridge overlooking the river. The area provides a critical corridor for birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway and other wildlife moving along the upland areas.

Meadow Complex is roughly bounded by Headquarters and Geigel Hill Roads, along Cafferty Road and extending east to the Erwinna area. It connects with the Roaring Rocks area north of Geigel Hill and the Tincicum Creek Corridor to the south to form a huge area in the center of the township.

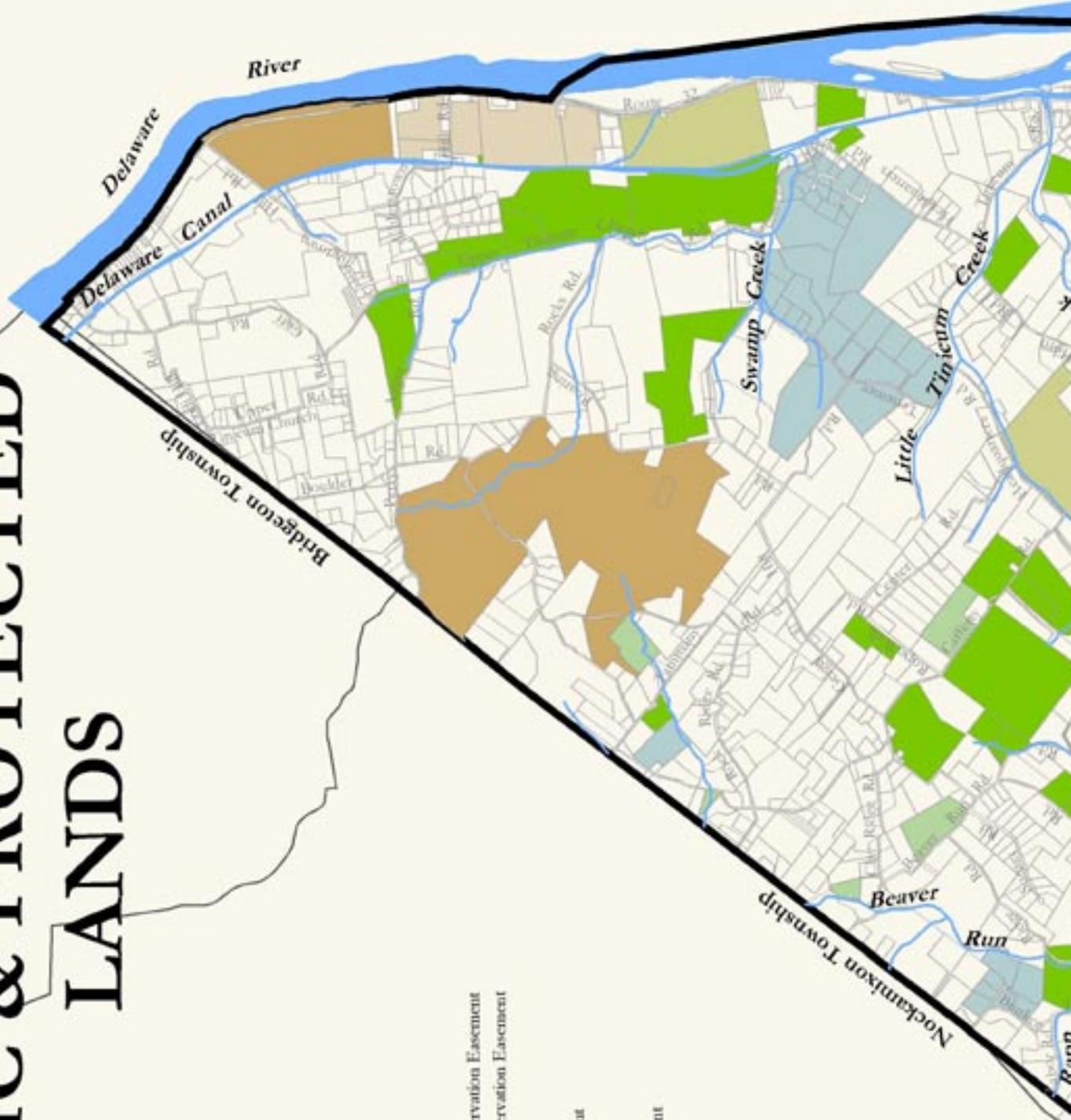
The hayfields and meadows are important for breeding bird species and native wildflowers and grasses. The area also includes pine plantations, providing habitat for owls and other species, and large areas of hardwood forest. The meadow habitat crosses Headquarters Road to include the 190 acres of Van Sant Airport--Tincicum's latest Bucks County Park--which connects with adjacent county parkland in the Tincicum Creek Corridor.

Private landowners in this area have protected 869 acres, of which 704 were uncompensated donations. Another 393 acres are protected by subdivision donations, for a total of 1452 acres.

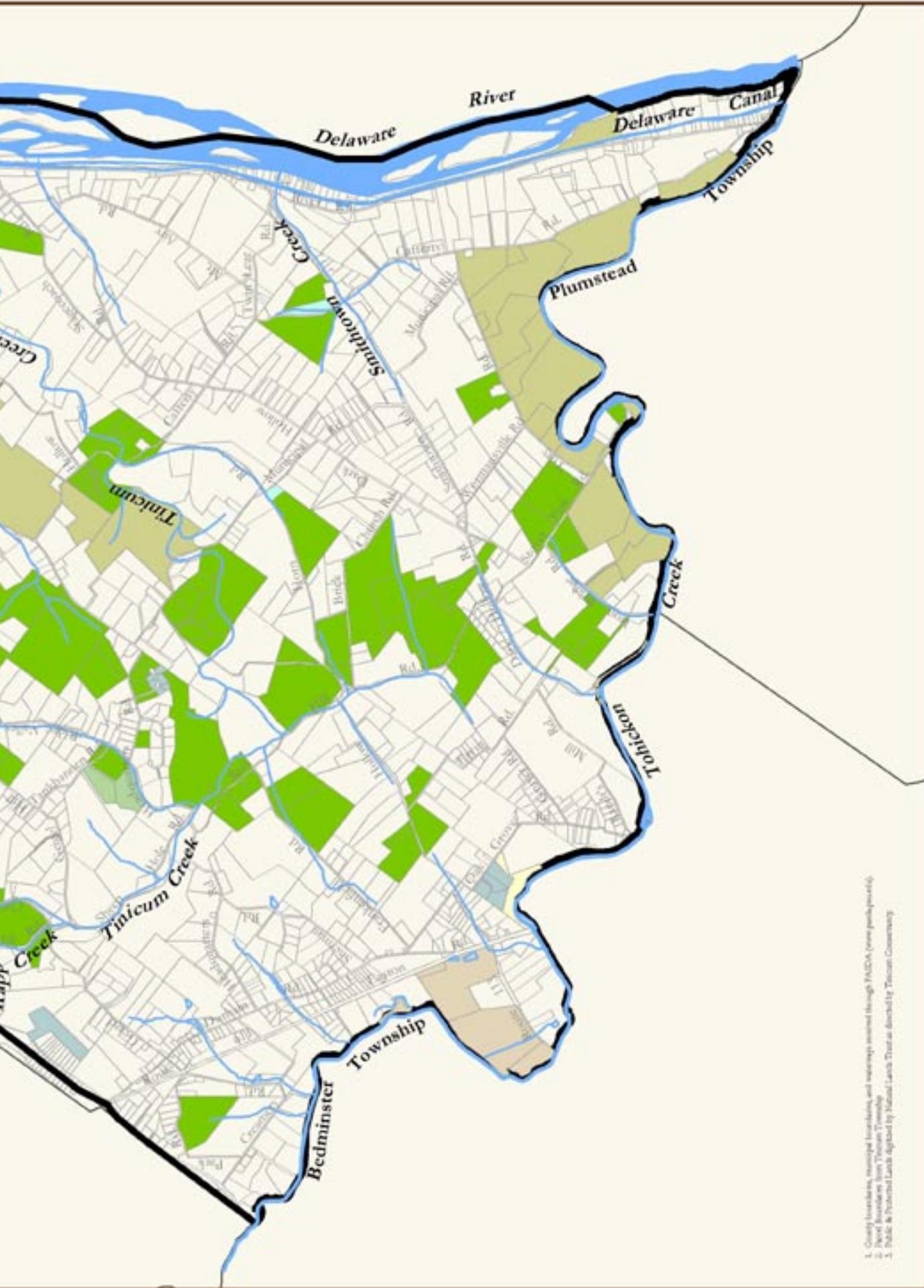
The diverse habitats of Tincicum Township contain a rich variety of natural resources. The Open Space Commission continues to meet with landowners to discuss how best to protect our natural inheritance for the benefit of future generations.

~ Pat Whitacre

PUBLIC & PROTECTED LANDS



-  Tinticum Township
-  Municipal Boundaries
-  Parcel Boundaries
-  Waterways
- Protected Lands**
-  Tinticum Conservancy Conservation Easement
-  Heritage Conservancy Conservation Easement
-  State Lands
-  County Owned
-  County Agricultural Easement
-  Township Owned
-  Deed Restricted
-  Other Conservation Easement



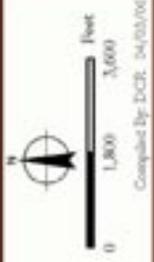
1. County boundaries, municipal boundaries, and waterways derived through PAEDCs (www.pas.gov/pas/cad)
 2. Parcel boundaries from Tincicum Township
 3. Public & Protected Lands digitized by Natural Lands Trust as described by "Tincicum: Community"



1031 Palumbo Mill Road
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Tincicum Township

Bucks County, Pennsylvania



Historic Heritage Receives Protection

The historic architecture of Tinicum adds to the natural beauty of the landscape that has attracted artists, visitors and new residents to the township over the years. In the 1993 Tinicum Township Comprehensive Plan, 92% of responding residents felt it was important to preserve our historic architecture.

One of the goals of the Open Space Plan is "To recognize and protect the cultural heritage resources and the character of Tinicum Township so that surviving resources and their context are preserved for future generations."

In evaluating properties for the purchase of conservation easements, the Open Space Commission recognizes the presence of buildings which have retained their historic integrity, and for which the surrounding acreage continues to convey a sense of the historic use of the property.

Tinicum recognizes the value of preserving the whole picture, rather than the all-too-familiar scene elsewhere of a surviving historic farmhouse which is surrounded by modern houses crowded into the former farm fields.

About 40 of Tinicum's protected private properties, involving approximately 1800 acres, include at least one historic building which will forever be surrounded by enough open space to convey its historic context.

Toll Brothers rebuffed

One example of this cultural preservation is the Duval property on Tory Road. The adjacent fields were once the subject of an application by Toll Brothers for a housing development and are the photo on the cover of the Open Space Plan. The lovely old stone house and outbuildings, which include a picturesque stone barn, will forever be surrounded by 26 acres of traditional farm fields, which constitute a scenic vista for the passing public to enjoy.

Commercial Zone protected

Another architectural treasure is the stone barn on the Wenner property on Park Avenue, which overlooks rolling farmland down to the distant Tohickon Creek. The conservation easement on this parcel, which is zoned for commercial development, guarantees that neighbors will always enjoy at least 38 acres of this pastoral scene.



Tinicum's historic buildings and rural scenery have long been the inspiration for artists. "Wenner Barn", painting by John Cole.

One landowner has chosen to permanently protect his farmland with an easement, having rejected a developer's lucrative offer to buy the property for placement of a sewage treatment plant. This easement will ensure that the historic farm buildings will forever be surrounded by their traditional open fields.

Newsletter featured farms

The 68 acre Steeley Farm and 63 acre James Hollowell Farm on Bedminster Road, the 63 acre Shull Farm on Headquarters Road near Erwinna, the 71 acre former Dreger Farm, re-named Scarecrow Farm, on Brick Church Road, and the 59 acre Haney Farm at the corner of Cafferty and Geigel Hill Roads have all been featured in previous issues of the Newsletter. They are all surviving examples of the farming heritage of Tinicum, and their surrounding fields will forever remain free of modern intru-

sion, thanks to the protective easements now in place.

Nineteen of these historic properties have been protected by the generous donation of the landowners, at no cost to taxpayers. The Heritage Conservancy also owns two historic properties in Tinicum.

Subdivisions keep historic context

Several historic properties have been preserved as the result of subdivision agreements, which stipulate no further subdivision of the property surrounding the historic resource.

The preservation of these historic resources has not always met with immediate approval. The original plans for the Rolling Hill Development near Erwinna included demolition of all the buildings of the old Shull Farm, which were in a state of neglect. The developer claimed that they were an eyesore which would impact the value of the luxury homes he planned for the development.

The restored farm now stands as a picturesque reminder of Tinicum's past for visitors and the new residents who are drawn to Tinicum by our rural landscapes. Historic buildings have been similarly preserved in other subdivisions and development proposals around the township.

Other programs preserve history

The remainder of our historic properties have been protected with a variety of funding sources, including County Agricultural Preservation Program, County Natural Areas Program, Tinicum's portion of the County Open Space Program, and Tinicum Township's Open Space Bond Program.

Tinicum is indeed fortunate to have neighbors who recognize the importance of preserving our architectural heritage and are willing to preserve their properties rather than maximize potential profits from their development.

~ Pat Whitacre

Tinicum Conservancy Protects Watershed, Educates Citizens

Holding easements on real property is not the only way the Conservancy protects land and resources in Tinicum. Since its inception in 1992, TC has brought over \$150,000 in resource protection and education grants into the township. All work done under these grants has been at no cost to residents.

TC and the Township sponsored a complete biotic inventory of the new state-owned Giving Pond Recreation Area along River Road, site of the former quarry.

Funded by \$5,000 each to the Township and the Conservancy from The Delaware River Greenway Partnership, this project documented over 150 bird species that live and breed in the park, including six threatened or endangered ones. The lake is one of only five areas in the county with freshwater jellyfish. Seven distinct plant communities support 210 different plant species, and two very different vernal pools provide unique habitats for frogs. A full report will be given at the April 18 Supervisors' meeting.

This spring TC will begin an inventory of the plant and animal species in the Roaring Rocks/Swamp Creek watershed under a \$25,000 grant from the Wild Resources Conservation Program. We expect the study to indicate that the area is rich in biological resources. Since this region is part of the ecologically important Delaware Highlands, data from this study will be valuable in planning for the conservation and protection of the Highland area.



A Watershed Action Grant from The Conservation Fund enabled the Conservancy to restore a deeply eroded tributary to the Tinicum at Frankenfield Bridge. Doug Skelton's Public Works Department staff donated time and machinery to remove large quantities of silt and gravel that were blocking the natural stream channel, rebuild the streambanks, and stabilize them with large rocks.



After a Bedminster Organics and Garden Design crew further stabilized the banks with bark cloth, volunteers from the

Tohickon Garden Club and Tinicum Art and Science school planted native shrubs and perennials.

A \$40,000 grant from DCNR produced a Conservation Plan for the entire lower Tohickon Creek watershed, and placed the creek on the Rivers Conservation Registry for the state. This improved our chances for state grants for conservation and resource protection projects in the watershed.

Three Delaware River Greenway Partnership grants enabled Project Director Marion Kyde and Conservancy volunteers to stabilize, restore and revegetate three sections of tributaries to the Tinicum Creek. One also enabled all members of a boy scout troop to earn their Conservation badge. One received his Eagle Scout designation for helping to plan and direct the project.

As part of its citizen education program, TC sponsored a series of seminars on environmental topics in 2003 – 2005, free and open to all. This year a series of informational events on conserved properties around the township will be led by the owner-experts themselves. Topics include maple sugaring, a guided bird walk, an herbal wreath workshop, and a visit to a wildflower meadow. Other educational projects included award winning exhibits on invasive plants and plant pollination by bats at the Tohickon Garden Club Flower Show.

~ Martie Kyde

Tinicum Conservancy Grows with Open Space Successes

While there are many more acres of township open space worthy of protection, the Tinicum Conservancy has run out of interior space required to accommodate its administration of current easements and ongoing programs of public education and natural resource protection. Their 'office space' currently consists of overflowing file cabinets in members' homes.

Fortunately, the Conservancy has found a 'win-win' solution to their space problem: the required interior space is available in the Stover Mill, which is owned by the Tinicum Civic Association. In a mutually beneficial arrangement, the two

organizations have agreed on plans for the Conservancy to create and lease two rooms-- a general meeting room plus an office for the new Executive Director-- on the second floor of the mill. The Civic Association will approve all improvement plans, while the Conservancy will be responsible for financing the renovations with an ongoing fundraising campaign.

Improvements will include new heating and cooling systems for the second floor, insulation around the two new office areas, new restroom, plastering and painting, and a new doorbell system. The space leased to the Conservancy will not interfere

with other uses of the mill by the Civic Association, including the popular art gallery and use of the first floor by local groups and tours. The Civic Association will be able to share in the use of the new meeting room, and will also continue to use some of the second floor space for files and general storage purposes.

Because the successful open space efforts of the township and the Conservancy have also required an increasing work load for the all-volunteer organization, the Board of Directors is now seeking a paid Executive Director to oversee its operations.

57th Tincum Arts Festival A Great Tincum Tradition

Saturday, July 8 10am to 7pm
Sunday, July 9 10am to 5pm

Adults \$6, ages 6-12 \$1,
under 6 free.



PHOTO: DOUG SARDO

Everyone has a good time at the Tincum Arts Festival.

For more information on events and schedules as the Festival nears, visit www.tincumbucks.org or call 610-294-9420.

WANTED: Your excess "stuff" to benefit Tincum

It's spring and time to clean out that attic, garage, closet or cupboard. Why not donate items you no longer need or use to a local rummage sale or the Tincum Arts Festival? You'll gain needed space while helping your community.

The Del Val Fire Company rummage sale, April 28-29, welcomes clothing and household items, but no magazines, exercise equipment or large pieces of furniture. Please call Leona (610-294-9365) to arrange for drop off of items.

The Tincum Arts Festival, July 8-9, welcomes books for the Book Wagon (no magazines, encyclopedias or text books), and household items for the White Elephant sale. (Tools, toys, artwork, decorations, and kitchenware are welcome, but no clothing, food, exercise equipment or large pieces of furniture.) Donations may be dropped off in Tincum Park near the red barn between 1-3 pm any Saturday in June. Call 610-294-9420 for information.

Please, only clean items in saleable condition can be accepted.

Images of Yesteryear

Do you have old photos of Tincum stashed away somewhere? Would you be willing to share these "images of yesteryear" with your neighbors?

The Historical Commission would like to borrow photos portraying historic architecture and other images of life in Tincum in days gone by. With our new photo scanning capabilities, we can copy your photos for posterity and return the originals to you.

Photos of original architecture have helped some residents restore buildings to their historically accurate condition. Many old houses have lost their porches or other design details, while others have been so altered as to make their original style hard to detect.



Images of farming, school days or other aspects of our rural heritage can help today's generations understand the lifestyle of our grandparents, and perhaps appreciate the simple pleasures of life in the country, a rural lifestyle that many of us in Tincum are trying to recapture and preserve before it is lost to the fate of the burgeoning populations of our suburbanized neighbors.

We would also like to preserve spoken or written memoirs of long time residents. If you have family interviews with the older generation, or would be willing to be interviewed to share memories of your Tincum youth, please let us know.

If you have photos, or other documents of Tincum history, which we might borrow, please call Pat Whitacre, Historical Commission Chair, at 610-847-5786.

Help wanted!

The Historical Commission invites all neighbors who would like to help to accumulate and organize these remnants of Tincum history to our meeting on June 12, at 7:30 in the township building.



Memo from the Chief: Gun Safety

A Reminder for All Residents

Many Tincum citizens take the right to own firearms very seriously. Accidents involving firearms, however, can and do happen, even with seasoned gun enthusiasts. Nearly all firearms accidents in the home can be prevented simply by making sure that guns are kept unloaded and locked, and that ammunition is secured in a separate place.

If you choose to keep a firearm for home security, it should be readily available to you, yet inaccessible or inoperative to others, especially children. Special lockable cases that can be opened quickly only by authorized individuals are an option.

Free gunlocks available: When the gun is not in use, keep the action open and locked with an approved gunlock. The Tincum Township Police Department has received 400 Safety Kits through Project ChildSafe which will be distributed free of charge to our local residents. Project ChildSafe is a nationwide safety education

program funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. Each kit contains a safety pamphlet and a "cable-style" gunlock.

Children are naturally curious about firearms and may be tempted to "play" with a gun they find. Adults are encouraged to talk to their children about the dangers of firearms. Children should be warned that if they find a gun in your home or anywhere else- STOP! Leave it alone. Don't touch it. Don't let anyone else touch it. Real guns can look like toys, and toys can look real. Leave the area and tell an adult at once.

Reminder: Safety Rules for all ages

-Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.

-Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

-Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.

Any resident interested in obtaining a free gunlock may contact the Tincum Police at 610-294-9158.

~ Chief James Sabath

Community Calendar

Daily – Tennis & Basketball, Four Brooks Park, Cafferty & Smithtown Rds., dawn to dusk. Residents only.

Mondays – Bingo Ottsville Fire Co., 249 Durham Rd, Ottsville. Open 6:30 games start 7 pm. \$5. No smoking.

Mon, Wed & Thurs–Eastern Upper Bucks Senior Center, 8040 Easton Rd, Ottsville. Mon - Line dancing 10:30–11:30am; Wed -Tai-Chi 1–2pm; Thur - Computer training, by appt. 610-847-8178.

Pipersville Library: M-F 3–5 pm, T,W,Th 7–8:30 pm, Thurs.10 am–12: Loads of new books 215-766-7880.

Tinicum Park & Tohickon Valley Park info 215-489-5132.

Tohickon Valley Park Pool – memberships, swim lessons 215-757-0571.

Erwin-Stover House, Tinicum Park: Open Thurs–Sun, 11am–4pm, or by appointment. Call 215-489-5133 (Mon-Fri).

MAY

Weekends - Stover Mill Gallery Art Show 1–5: “Plein Air Impressions” Oils by John Stinger.

Saturdays – Polo in Tinicum Park 2pm, starts May 13, weather permitting. \$5 per carload, bring tailgate picnic. 908-996-3321 for weather update. www.tinicumpolo.org.

4 & 11 Story Hours for Preschoolers, ages 3–5, 10-11am Pipersville Library. 215-766-7880.

6 All Breeds Dog Show 65th annual Bucks County Kennel Club, Tinicum Park, 7am–7pm. Free. No outside dogs!

7 Palisades Community Chorus Spring Concert Gilbert & Sullivan’s “Trial by Jury”, 3pm Palisades MS Auditorium. Donation. 610-294-9039.

9 Last Day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot

10 Tinicum Conservancy Bd of Trustees Meet. 7:30pm, Stover Mill, Members & residents welcome. 610-294-9069.

12 Last Day for Absentee Ballots to be received by County Board of Elections

12 Spaghetti Dinner All-you-can-eat, Del Val Fire Co. 75 Headquarters Rd, Erwinna, 5:30–8pm. Adults \$6.50, Seniors \$6, Children 6–12 \$4.50, under 6 free.

14 Firehouse Breakfast All-you-can-eat, UBE Fire Co., Firehouse Lane off River Rd, 7–11:30am. Fire truck tours for kids. Adults \$6, children 6–12 \$3, under 6 free.

16 Primary Election Day VOTE!

Polls are open 7 am - 8 pm.

20 Tohickon Valley Pool Pre-registration: memberships & lessons, in person at pool, 12–4pm, bring photo ID. 215-297-0754.

25 Tinicum Civic Assn Mtg 8pm, Stover Mill, 610-294-9420.

27 PA Fish 4 Free Day No license required on PA waterways today. All other fishing regulations apply. Call Delaware Canal State Park for info on special programs for kids.610-982-0166.

27-29 Tohickon Valley Pool Opens weekends for the season. 12:30–6:30 pm. 215-297-0754.

JUNE

Weekends Stover Mill Gallery Art Show, 1–5pm. “Worldview” Acrylics by Lynn Miller.

Tohickon Valley Pool Open daily starting mid June. 12:30–6:30pm 215-297-0754.

Saturdays – Polo in Tinicum Park 2pm, weather permitting. See May.

Weed Warriors tackle mile-a-minute weed along creeks. Call Karen 610-294-9069 for dates/times. Sponsored by Tinicum Conservancy.

3 Annual Street Fair Pipersville Library. 10am–4pm, Old Easton Rd, Crafts, games, books, bake sale, Lion’s Club BBQ chicken.

4 PA Fish 4 Free Day See May 27.

4 Tinicum Outdoor Antique Show sponsored by Tinicum Civic Assn. Tinicum Park, 10am–4 pm. \$6. No pets. 610-847-8304.

9 Spaghetti Dinner All-you-can-eat, Del Val Fire Co. See May 12.

10 Public Canoe Program, Giving Pond Recreation Area sponsored by Delaware Canal State Park. Details–610-982-0166.

14 Tinicum Conservancy Bd of Trustees Meet. See May10.

24 Household Hazardous Waste collection, 9–3pm. Computers, pesticides, flammables, toxics, caustics, batteries, propane tanks 20 lb or less. DO NOT BRING latex paint, explosives, PCBs, tires, appliances, asbestos, biological or radioactive waste, or alkaline batteries. Upper Bucks Vo-Tech, 3115 Ridge Rd, Bedminster. 215-345-3400 or www.buckscounty.org

22 Tinicum Civic Assn Mtg 8 pm, Stover Mill. 610-294-9420.

24 Public Canoe Program, Giving Pond Recreation Area, see June 10.

JULY

Weekends Stover Mill Gallery Art Show 1–5: Oils “Bridging Bucks & Hunterdon Counties” by Jim Lukens & Trish Vergis.

Saturdays – Polo Tinicum Park see May listing. No games July 1.

Summer Reading Program for grades 1-6, Pipersville Library. “Paws, Claws, Tails & Scales” informal during regular library hours.

Tohickon Valley Pool open daily 12:30–6:30pm. 215-297-0754.

1 Fourth of July Concert Riverside Symphonia, under the stars in Tinicum Park, 8–10 pm, gates open 6 pm. Advance tickets (Gourmet’s Pantry) \$15 adult, \$5 child. At gate (if available) \$18 adult, \$8 child. Bring picnic, lawn chairs or blanket. No dogs, BBQ grills, glow necklaces, or sparklers. 609-397-7300.

8 Public Canoe Program, Giving Pond Recreation Area, see June 10.

8 & 9 57th Tinicum Arts Festival Tinicum Park., Sat 10 am–7 pm, Sun 10am–5 pm, Adults \$6, ages 6–12 \$1, under 6 free. No pets or bicycles. 610-294-9420.

12 Tinicum Conservancy Bd of Trustees Meet. See May 10.

14 Spaghetti Dinner All-you-can-eat, Del Val Fire Co. See May 12.

15 Community Picnic Fundraiser for UBE Fire Co. 2–8pm, rain or shine, Bridgeton AA. Eats, beer, music, fire truck tours, fun and games. Adults \$20, 6–14 \$10, under 6 free.

22 Public Canoe Program, Giving Pond Recreation Area, See June 10.

27 Tinicum Civic Assn Mtg 8 pm, Stover Mill. 610-294-9420.

30 Tour de Tinicum Five bicycle tours, 4–53 miles, Benefit Del Val Fire Co. Advance registration by July 25: \$20/ adult, \$35/family includes T-shirt. After July 24: \$25. Children under 12 free with adult. Free post-ride picnic. Registration 8 am, rides leave 9 am from firehouse, Info/registration 610-294-9385 or www.DVVFC.org.

Send Calendar suggestions to
Pat Lesko at 610-847-8304
or plesko1@fast.net

Township Boards and Meeting Schedule

Board of Supervisors

Generally 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7:45 pm.
May 16; June 20; July 18; Aug 15; Sept 19;
Oct 3, 17; Nov 14, 21; Dec 5, 19.

Environmental Advisory Council

Derek Fell 1/03/05-12/31/07
Martie Kyde 1/03/05-12/31/07
Steve Malarsky 8/19/06-12/31/08
Robert Stanfield 1/06/06-12/31/08
Michael Zavoda 1/03/05-12/31/07
Generally the 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm.
May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug 21,
Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 11.

Historical Commission

Charles Bello 1/03/05-12/31/07
Jay Folkes 1/06/06-12/31/08
Jack Halstead 1/06/06-12/31/08
Brian Murphy 1/05/04-12/31/06
Pat Whitacre 1/05/04-12/31/06
Generally the 2nd Monday at 7:30 pm.
May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug 14, Sept 11,
Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11.

Joint Tincum, Nockamixon and Bridgeton Groundwater Management Committee Tincum members:

Robert Stanfield & Greg Van Hook
Generally the 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 pm at
the Nockamixon Township Building.
May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug 16, Sept
20, Oct 18. Nov 15. Dec 13.

Planning Commission

Damon Aherne 1/7/06-12/31/08
Laure Duval 1/5/04-12/31/07
Roger Heffernan 1/18/05-12/31/08
Judy Iden 1/7/04-12/31/07
Trevor McNeill 1/6/03-12/31/06
Nicholas Tscheschlog 1/6/03-12/31/06
Generally the 4th Tuesday at 7:45 pm.
May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug 22,
Sept 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 12.
Work sessions: May 9, Sept 12,
Oct 3, Nov 14.

Park and Recreation Board

Vicki Dexheimer 1/06/06-12/31/08
Louis Giliberti 1/5/04-12/31/07
R. Douglas Hahn 1/1/02-12/31/06
Glen Hale 1/3/05-12/31/07
Geoffrey Nye 3/21/06-12/31/08
David Sears 1/3/05-12/31/07
Generally the 2nd Wednesday at 8:00 pm.
May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug 9, Sept 13,
Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13.

Zoning Hearing Board

Bill Altier 1/01/05-12/31/07
Eric Hinrichs 1/01/06-12/31/08
Terry Pratt 10/6/03-12/31/06
John Moore 1/1/06-12/31/08
Generally the 2nd and 4th Thursday at
7:00 pm as required.
Hearing notices will be published. May 11,
25; June 8, 22; July 13, 27; Aug 10, 24;
Sept 14, 28; Oct 12, 26; Nov 9, Dec 7.

Open Space Commission

Karen Budd 1/03/05-12/31/07
John Cole 1/05/04-12/31/06
Dave Emerson 1/03/05-12/31/07
William Harvey 1/1/04-12/31/06
Ed Henry 1/03/05-12/31/07
Martie Kyde 1/06/06-12/31/08
Norman MacArthur 1/06/06-12/31/08
David Pott 1/1/04-12/31/06
Kim Rosamilia 01/05/04-12/31/06
Lynn Sengstack 1/1/04-12/31/06
Pat Whitacre 1/05/04-12/31/06
Generally the 4th Monday at 7:30 pm.
May 22, June 26, July 24,
Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 23, Nov 27, Dec 18.

Building Code Board of Appeals

Hearings as required.
Joe Billingham
Ken Walton
Chris Weaver

**From time to time,
Tincum has vacancies
on its boards or commissions.
If a particular group interests you,
please send a brief letter
indicating your availability to
Township Manager Linda McNeill
or to the Supervisors.**

**Residents are welcome
at all meetings.**

Tincum Township
163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, PA 18947

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