

Amity Township Residents & Taxpayers,

On January 21st, 2026, a member from Timber Ridge Forestry, LLC will be at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting to explain the forestry management plan that was contracted. There has been a fair amount of misinformation shared regarding this topic and the purpose of the meeting. Amity Township has taken NO ACTION to log the Hill. Be advised, Timber Ridge will not be responding to questions from the public at this meeting. As always, residents and taxpayers of Amity will be allowed 3 minutes of comment following the presentation of the plan. Members & Supporters of Monocacy Hill Conservation Association (MHCA) will need to go through a resident to comment at a meeting. We are happy to take comments ahead of the meeting via email to secretary@amitytownshippa.com or via mail to Amity Township Board of Supervisors, 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, PA 19518.

There is NO intention of the BOS to act on the Plan at this meeting, and NO action has been taken to conduct timber harvesting at this time. The sole purpose of having Timber Ridge at this meeting is to complete the contracted service obligation to share their management plan with the BOS and answer any questions of the BOS.

How did we get to this point? Approximately 1 year ago representatives of MHCA approached the BOS regarding future upkeep of the hill. They raised concerns about a lack of volunteers and the fact the current group of MHCA members could not keep up with ongoing maintenance. MHCA suggested that the township donate the hill to the PA Department of Natural Resources/Bureau of Forestry (DCNR).

The BOS, being interested in learning more about this concept, invited DCNR to a meeting which was held 9/18/2024. As conversations continued, the BOS became concerned with losing complete control over the hill. DCNR shared the fact they would most likely timber portions of the hill. Other things like overnight camping and campfires would have been allowed, like in other DCNR areas (French Creek State Park for example). The Township nor our residents would have any say as to the future of the Hill. It was at that point the BOS decided to use an outside professional to perform an in-depth study of the Hill.

Although the Hill can never be developed or sold, giving it to DCNR could drastically change the use of the hill. The BOS does not want to lose full control to the point where the township has no say as to what occurs on the hill.

Where are we now? With the plan being completed and shared with the public. Timber Ridge will complete their portion of the contract and explain their proposed plan to the BOS. Again, any action to implement any part of the plan will not be decided at this meeting.

In the meantime, the BOS asked the public to submit questions about the report by 1/9. Some of these questions (asked by residents/taxpayers) are answered below. Many of the

questions are premature and can be addressed if additional action is taken in the future. Some of the questions were forwarded to the Forester and may be addressed as part of their presentation at the January 21st meeting.

Question: How was Timber Ridge chosen/vetted.

Answer: Timber Ridge was highly recommended by our Arborist. No additional opinions/plans have been sought.

Question: What will be done with the proceeds should a timber harvest occur?

Answer: The intent of any proceeds is to return the money to the parks and recreation fund. Monocacy Hill is part of the Township's park system and currently places the biggest demand on the parks and recreation budget for maintenance.

Question: Is this just a way for the township to make money? What is the plan for any revenue received?

Answer: Absolutely not – this is NOT about the revenue. We do not have debt to be paid, nor do we have a budget to balance. The BOS requested a forestry management plan be completed. Any funds generated would help with future maintenance of the Hill. Keep in mind, every time the township arborist is there cutting down dangerous dead ash trees, the cost is \$2,500 per day. The township has spent tens of thousands of dollars on dead ash tree management on the Hill, and the work isn't complete. Invasive species should be dealt with on the hill. Should any timbering take place, funds would help fund this work.

Question: Why was the Railbed Trail widened to the extent that it is and is this planned for any other trails?

Answer: The most southern edge of the Railbed Trail was one of the areas that could not be reached by emergency equipment. This was a remote part of the hill that we determined needed to be accessible. Two foot bridges prevented that. To replace the foot bridges with pipe crossings, access for equipment needed to be made. With this section complete, roughly 80% of the hill is now accessible for emergency personnel. There is no plan to widen any other trails for this purpose.

Question: How does the plan fit with the current maintenance being performed?

Answer: Township staff is maintaining hazard trees and keeping trails open and safe for recreation. We are not currently addressing invasive species.

Question: Will trails be used as logging roads in the future?

Answer: That has yet to be determined as the BOS has not decided if any timbering will even be done. If this were to occur, the bid specifications would require trails to be returned to their original condition. A bond would be held until this was complete.

Question: Use of volunteer groups/individuals help with projects – sometimes groups from companies or organizations are looking to fulfill community service – would you consider this?

Answer: Any sources of assistance would be welcome. The Township intends to seek volunteers who wish to assist with the maintenance and preservation of the hill. Community Service and Scout projects would be considered and appreciated.

Question: Do you have an evaluation plan written by a conservation bureau of forestry writer?

Answer: No evaluation of the plan has been completed.

Question: Actively seeking grants that could provide funds to pay for educational programs?

Answer: The organized programs are done through the MHCA – we do not know if grants have been sought for this purpose.