2025 BARSHINGER CREEK PRESERVATION ALLIANCE FALL NEWSLETTER

Dear friends and neighbors,

Our last newsletter came to you in the spring with the warming days and the property stirring with signs of emerging life. The summer went by quickly as most do with hot and humid days, vacations, and back to school sales. Now, as the leaves are littering the forest floor and we are preparing our homes and tables for the holidays we come to you with some very significant updates that have required an immense amount of dedication and faith on the part of all of our BCPA team. As sure as the bite in the air means that winter is approaching, we can stand here today and say that we are closer than ever to securing the Old Red Lion Country Club property for the community and our kids.

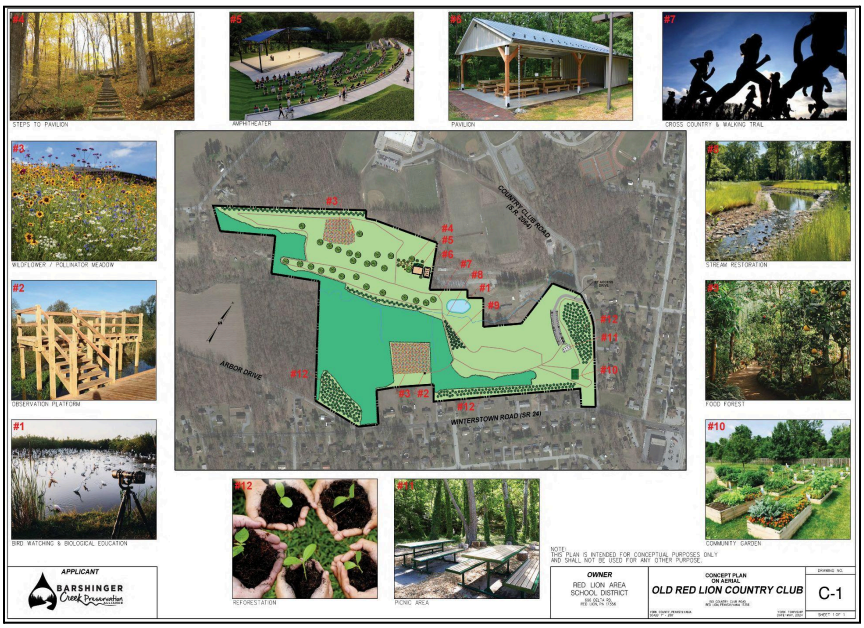
Over the past few months, we have continued to be in communication with the personnel on the school board at the Red Lion Area School District. There has been great progress coming from recent submissions by BCPA to the board with the submission of a letter of interest, a presentation at the October school board meeting, and follow-up preliminary discussions with the school district.

BCPA has been working with our lawyer and our gracious philanthropist to begin drawing up language for an official offer that we can put forward to the school board. A key component in creating this offer is gaining an appraisal for the property to facilitate negotiations with the district. We wanted to take the time in this fall newsletter to show our supporters that we are actively working toward this acquisition and we have been making great progress. Through meetings and conversations with the school board, our group has discussed the purchasing price and the necessary steps to move things forward in a positive direction. BCPA hopes that these steps, combined with our efforts to write and be awarded successful grants, will advance our position in our negotiations with RLASD.

Currently, we are in the process of raising money for our own appraisal of the property so that we can accurately apply for specific grants and enter into formal negotiations with all the knowledge necessary to fulfill a fair and satisfactory contract with the Red Lion Area School District. In addition to our grant writing, we will be rolling out a fundraising campaign that will be used to help us reach the property price in the near future. Eventually, we will be looking to hire a master site planner with expertise in conservation properties who can better assess the existing conditions of the site and provide the most efficient plan for utilizing the property to its greatest potential over the coming years. We will continue to maintain the cross country course for the Red Lion XC Team if acquisition is completed. In addition, BCPA wants to let the community know that we intend to make the property open to the public.

We hope that you've seen us cleaning up the Red Lion Mile, supporting our cross country student athletes at meets this fall, or at the Holiday Bazaar at the High School in the last few months. We hope that you've heard about the great work being done by Red Lion teachers and their watershed lessons being done on the property in the beginning of this school year. We hope you share our passion for protecting the wildlife and critical habitat that this piece of property holds. As I write this, I am mindful of the small black bear that made the news along Arbor Drive and Country Club Road right after our Spring Newsletter went out. All of us at Barshinger Creek Preservation Alliance think this property is a special little place and we hope you agree. As we look ahead in the calendar you will be seeing us at various community events, and we hope to offer more details on our progress as time and negotiations allow.

In closing, know that your support of our efforts is appreciated more than our words can express, and that we are being diligent and careful with our next steps. We have been working tirelessly to see this through, and we enter this holiday season so very grateful and thankful for your involvement, whether it be through your conversations with friends about the property, a positive phone call or email to a school board representative, a merchandise purchase, or a financial donation. Just know that it does not go unnoticed, and we wouldn't be where we are today without all of you. As we gather around tables this holiday season, and as the cold bite of winter takes hold, remember you're never too old to catch a snowflake on your tongue.



If you would like to stay current with all things Barshinger Creek, please continue to check in with us on our social media and our website, www.barshingercreekpa.org, for updates, merchandise sales, volunteer opportunities, and other important information. The board of directors here at BCPA are thankful for your support, proud of our efforts, and hopeful for our combined future!

Contributed by: Dan Dellinger

BARSHINGER Creek Preservation ALLIANCE