Subject: : Conservation
Topic: : Tub Mill Creek
Re: Tub Mill Creek
Author: : Maurice
Date: : 2013/2/3 15:22:12
URL:

Quote:

> PROPERTY CONSERVED
> The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy protected, through an agricultural easement, more than 37 acres of farmland at the headwaters of a notable Westmoreland County creek.
>
> The Fairfield Township property sits at the headwaters of Tubmill Creek, which has been identified as a “priority watershed because of the rich aquatic life in the stream.” The easement keeps the property in private hands while permanently restricting development on it.

I am not sure what the WPACon had to do with the "protection" if it was put into an Ag easement. Its probably a Clean and Green and the conservancy helped with the paperwork. I am shooting from the hip here. I do know that Clean and Green Ag easements do not allow development in exchange for lower property taxes. But the property had to be farmed to a degree. If not in crop, It cannot fall into that category. It can be put into another category but access must be permitted but it isn't mandatory to advertise it, just no posting signs. I work on a property that falls into this category. If people want to take a walk though the grounds, they are welcome to do it through the easement and tax breaks. But there are no signs indicating this is permitted. And there are no posted signs because this would be against the rules.

The presence of the WPC indicated they contributed toward this easement. I am curious to the degree and specifics. I think it is concerning that the WPC would willfully take donations intended for conservation from the public and pool them to help private interests save money on taxes and keep property closed. Of course the property is conserved, thats great....but who is paying the people to keep it closed off?