Kennett Township Must Do Better At Saving Open Space

In 2005, 75% of KT voters passed a dedicated Open Space Tax, an overwhelming indication of public support for land conservation. But it takes more than our tax money to preserve land. As a former leader of our Township's major land preservation partner, The Land Conservatory for Southern Chester County (TLC), I understand the complexities of acquiring open space, finding additional outside funding, and then managing preserved properties for maximum public value.

While my opponent, Whitney Hoffman, has talked repeatedly about preserving open space, she has proven repeatedly that she just doesn't understand what it takes to do it right. Take the 103-acre Spar Hill Farm, which the Township purchased in 2018 for \$3.2M. By failing to follow state and county rules, Hoffman passed up at least a million dollars in matching funding, depleting our open space tax funds and forcing the Township to resort to significant debt financing – which Hoffman voted for – to complete the purchase. Worse yet, three years later, the property still has derelict buildings, 'no trespassing' signs, and no formal public access, let alone a managed trail system. So no surprise that Hoffman has little to say about Spar Hill.

We can and must do better. If elected, I promise to use my experience to clean up our broken open space program and reinvigorate our commitment to preserving our precious landscapes.



Peter Doehring for Kennett Township Supervisor peter4supervisor.com

Vote Peter for Kennett Township Supervisor May 18 Democratic Primary

Dear Fellow Kennett Township Democrat,

I am very passionate about land conservation, which is why I helped to lead The Land Conservatory for Southern Chester County (TLC) – the Township's primary land conservation partner for over 20 years. TLC operates five popular preserves in KT, holds the conservation easements on 2 of 3 of KT's municipal parks, and protects almost two dozen other parcels across the Township. While doing so, we've saved the Township money and incurred zero debt.

Now I'm running for Supervisor, facing the incumbent, Whitney Hoffman, in the May 18 Dem primary. Hoffman claims to support open space, but on her watch, preservation opportunities have been squandered and major outside funding opportunities have been lost, ultimately forcing the Township to incur millions in new debt financing to make any new preservation purchases. Meanwhile properties the Township has purchased with that debt are being so poorly managed that the public is receiving little value.

With your vote for me on May 18th and in November, I'll leverage my extensive experience to preserve more open space, more quickly, and at less cost. Please see the back of this card for more details.

Thanks for your support,

Peter Doehring

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