

September 30, 2008

Dear Resident:

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has advised us that the Hershey Mill Dam, located at the corner of Greenhill Road and Hershey Mill Road does not meet their current requirements. Their concern is that during a major rainfall event the dam could overtop and possibly fail.

The Township Engineer has developed three alternatives to correct this condition, but all of them will drastically change the current appearance of the dam. Two of them involve the creation of a secondary spillway that will allow the water to safely pass the dam and the third alternative is breaching the dam. The following is a summary of each alternative.

Alternative 1 would require the construction of secondary concrete spillway that would extend eastward from the current spillway for distance of 200 feet. The vertical face of the spillway that faces Greenhill Road would be covered with a stone veneer. All of the trees and shrubs would be removed for the dam. The cost for this option is estimated to be \$260,000 and to the best of our knowledge grant money is not available.

Alternative 2 would require the installation of construction of an articulated concrete block secondary spillway that would extend eastward from the current spillway for distance of 200 feet. The articulated concrete blocks would be connected with cables to prevent them from moving if the secondary spillway was needed. The open areas of the blocks would be filled with dirt and seeded. After the grass becomes fully established the blocks would no longer be visible. The cost for this option is estimated to be \$280,000 and to the best of our knowledge grant money is not available.

Alternative 3 would involve breaching the dam and re-establishing the stream channels above the dam. The breach would be done in such a manner that it would look like the dam had failed, but the entire dam would not be removed. While the trees and shrubs in the area of the breach would be removed, those further away from the breach could remain. The cost for this option has been estimated to be \$218,000 and to the best of our knowledge the Township would likely be able to obtain a grant for \$100,000.

We have had our engineer develop a presentation on what the various alternatives would look like and you can see them at the "For Your Information" section of Township Web Page (www.eastgoshen.org) or you can review a copy at the Township Building.

In accordance with Township policy this letter is being sent to all property owners within 1,000 feet of the Hershey Mill Dam. The engineer will make a presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting on October 28, 2008 at 7:00 pm the Township Building. The Board will take public input and possibly make a decision on which alternative to select at this meeting.

The meeting room at the Township Building has a capacity of 120 people and this letter is being sent to 158 households. If you can not attend the meeting but want to express your opinion please send an e-mail to me at rsmith@eastgoshen.org or send a letter to my attention at the Township. A copy of each e-mail and/or letter will be given to the Board members.

Please give me a call at 610-692-7171 or e-mail me at rsmith@eastgoshen.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Louis F. Smith, Jr.
Township Manager

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