

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING**

July 14, 2010

7:00 P.M.

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at the East Goshen Township Building. Board members present were: Chairman Bryan Delmonte, Jane Fava, Ginnie Newlin, Sandra Snyder, Mark Kawecki, and Scott Sanders. Also in attendance were Mike Merwin; Bob Huebner, Park & Recreation; Joe Zug, Historical Commission, and Don McConathy, Township Supervisor.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jane moved to accept the minutes of June 9, 2010 as corrected. Ginnie seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

A. Hershey's Mill Dam – On June 27, 2010, Bryan met Kathryn Yahraes, Linda Gordon and Bernadette McLoughlin at the Okehocking Preserve to see how they breached the dam in a historic area. The Conservancy Board decided to meet at the Okehocking Preserve at 5:00 pm before their regular August 11th meeting. A private foundation has offered to purchase the Hershey's Mill Dam, which the Township owns. Don reported that the process would require a public bid and the BOS wants a covenant that it would always remain as open space. Currently the BOS has requested pricing for 2 ways to fix the dam and one for breaching. Bryan contacted Sara Strassman of American Rivers to see if there were any cases where the dam was purchased. She responded that she was not aware of a township selling to a private nonprofit.

B. Ashbridge Preserve – On June 17th, Bryan joined others at the Ashbridge Preserve to look at a proposed site for a stepping stones "bridge" plan. He provided a photo of the stepping stones which would be concrete and shaped so the water can run between and over them. Bryan commented that the concrete could be stained a color.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. East Boot Road – Bryan reported that he, Ginnie and Jane met with Tony DuFour on June 16, 2010 at the site to discuss the condition of several trees. Tony responded that he would only replace the 4 trees if he replaces in kind. The Board decided to ask for 1 black gum and 1 red bud tree as replacements. The Board also wants a 12 month guarantee on the replacement trees.

B. Reservoir Road Project – Bryan, Ginnie and Jane met with Brian O'Neil of WEEDS, Inc. on July 7th. Brian O'Neil explained that the "dead" areas are where he already sprayed. The result of the meeting was satisfactory. Bryan verified that WEEDS, Inc did go back on July 13th to do the follow-up spraying that was discussed. It was noted that the grasses look good and Public Works is only mowing where requested by the Conservancy Board.

C. Tree Ordinance – The Board reviewed the changes made in the Township Tree Ordinance. Ginnie noted that the change for Section 205-61, on Page 2, (9) should read "Root pruning should not be done unless absolutely necessary and then no more than one side of the root system in a given year. Optimum timing is autumn." was not completely done. Also, on page 1, line 20, the Board recommended deleting "The following procedures and those in §218-4". The sentence should start with "Protection of..." Mike will give these to Mark Gordon.

D. Newsletter – Ginnie provided an article on the 100 foot buffer and suggested using it in the Newsletter. Bryan suggested using the "Why we need buffers" part along with some photos. Ruth Kiefer volunteered Dave Kiefer to take photos of the Reservoir Road buffers. Jane feels the Fall Newsletter should have an article about the Y trees and keep the buffer article for the Winter Newsletter. The board decided to do this.

E. Plantings – Ginnie feels that anyone doing plantings of any kind in the Township open spaces should have to present a plan to the Conservancy Board prior to the planting. Don pointed out that this would require a change in the Township Ordinance. After discussion, it was decided that any plantings authorized by the Conservancy

Board will have to include a presentation to the Conservancy Board of the proposed plan showing what will be planted and where.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. None

6. **SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT/LANDSCAPE PLAN REVIEW**

A. None

7. **BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS/COMMENTS**

A. Pennvest Grant – Jane reported that there is an opportunity to get a Pennvest grant through the Conservation District to do riparian zone plantings. It would be fully funded and no volunteers are needed. The Park and Recreation Board has looked at areas along the stream in Applebrook which, if done, would encourage meadows. Bob pointed out that this was mentioned in the Natural Lands Trust report as a possible project. The grant request has to be submitted in August. If it is not done in time for a Fall planting, there is no expiration so it can be done later. Don asked about any costs to the Township. Jane explained that initially there will be some maintenance, but when it is established there will be no maintenance. Currently the township is mowing. Don suggested that Jane write a letter to Rick Smith outlining the maintenance that will be needed since this will be a cost to the Township.

B. Sandy commented about the email that Kathryn Yahares sent out regarding the lack of funding by the state for growing greener grants, etc. Jane feels the Conservancy Board should write a letter and individuals should also send letters. Sandy moved to send the Pa. state representatives a letter from the Board in support of **not** cutting funding for these programs. Jane seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously. Sandy will follow-up with Kathryn on this.

C. Sandy noticed the black casings for the Y trees at Line Rd. and Paoli Pike are just lying on the ground in piles near the road. She is concerned they may be stolen. Bryan will ask Mark Miller to store them until October when they will be put back on the trees.

D. Rain Garden – Sandy asked Ginnie if she is taking photos of her rain garden. Ginnie is taking photos. Sandy would like to put them on the Township website. Bryan has also started a rain garden.

8. **LIAISON REPORTS**

A. Park & Recreation – Bob reported that the Fireworks were very successful. The Park & Recreation Board will meet at Applebrook at 5:30 pm before the August 5th meeting to follow up on their previous visit.

B. Historical Commission – Joe reported that July 22nd is the Town Tour from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Tours will start at the Blacksmith shop.

C. Board of Supervisors – Don reported that Schaffer Properties purchased the bed & breakfast and will use it for offices. They are a wholesaler of dried spices. The Planning Commission is having a special meeting on July 21st to make a decision. Ginnie mentioned the crushed red stone, pervious driveway that was used. It held up very well and should be recommended in the future. Also she said Schaffer is not changing any of the historical features of the property.

Don reported that Hankin, developer of New Kent, wants to remove the retail spaces and build 2 new apartment buildings. There should be a landscape plan.

Next Tuesday, July 20th DEP and Sunoco will be at the BOS meeting.

The Zoning Hearing Board will see the Liberty Tower plan for a cell tower behind the Wawa.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Bryan acknowledged receipt of two letters from the township regarding variance requests to the Planning Commission and a letter from Rick Smith acknowledging receipt of the Conservancy Board's recommendation to

remove the Hershey's Mill Dam. Bryan also acknowledged receipt of a letter Ginnie got from the Pa Environmental Council stating that the PEC received the Board's dues payment.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jane seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. **The Conservancy Board will meet at the Okehocking Preserve at 5:00 pm before their August 11, 2010 meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary

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