

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING
July 13, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at the East Goshen Township Building. Board members present were: Chairman Bryan Del Monte, Ginnie Newlin, Adam Knox, Scott Sanders, and Mark Kawecki. Also in attendance were Don McConathy, Township Supervisor; Bob Huebner, Park and Recreation; Sue Carty, Planning Commission; Erich Meyer, Park & Recreation; and Alex Gadson, Scout with Troop 93.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ginnie moved to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2011 meeting, as corrected. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

A. Community Day Saturday June 25, 2011 – Bryan, Ginnie and Adam were at the Conservancy Board table in the VIP tent. Bryan prepared handouts which contained the Board's Mission Statement, a list of projects and some Newsletter articles. There weren't many people visiting the tent, so Bryan went into the crowd and distributed the handouts. He also made a storyboard with pictures from the latest planting in Applebrook. Ginnie suggested that the Board members keep the name tags for future use.

B. Bryan reviewed the latest expense report and has questions about the cost (about \$500) that is being charged for the fencing and posts for the reforest project in Applebrook. He thought Mark Miller said he had surplus fencing to use for this. So did other Board members. Bryan will check with Mark.

C. CRC Membership – A renewal notice was received but Bryan noticed that a fee was just paid in February. He spoke to Ann about this. She said their year goes from July to June, so that's why the notice was received now. She will check on the February payment to see what year it actually covered.

D. The Hershey's Mill Dam – The proposal to build a seawall behind the dam is being reviewed by DEP. Bryan has a copy if anyone wants to see it. Don explained that the seawall would be a barrier behind the dam which would prevent water in heavy rains from running over the dam and it will help recreate a pond.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. NLT – The Board reviewed an outline Bryan prepared listing the phases that it would take to control invasives in Applebrook. Bryan spoke to Weeds Inc about the plan. Brian O'Neil will look at the park and the plan. He will be at the Historic Area on Saturday July 16 and would like to meet with the Board members to discuss the scope of work. Ginnie wants written proposals from at least 2 contractors for this 5 year plan. The review included:

1. Assigning numbers to the measures for controlling invasives
2. In Phase 1 (d), fallen sycamore tree, Adam feels that, if there is no reason to remove the tree, it should be left there. Bryan will check on this. The Board took no action.
3. In Phase 4 (b) regarding an open well casing, Bryan will see if Mark Miller knows the status of the well. No action was taken on this item.

Scott pointed out that herbicide manufacturers have specific instructions for use of the spray which usually includes spraying immediately upon cutting. Also, a special kind of herbicide needs to be used near water.

Don commented that the BOS instructed Mark Miller to mow Applebrook more often.

Bob reminded the Board that Public Works gets very busy in the Spring and Summer, so timing is important if they want PW to do some of these items.

B. Malvern Bank Parking Lot – Bryan wrote a letter to Mark Gordon after the last meeting about the YMCA Tree removal. Ginnie and Scott were not pleased with the letter Mark wrote in response. Don mentioned that several Supervisors also were not pleased with the way this was handled. He pointed out that the original plans have a note that a fence will be installed at the drip line of the trees. Adam commented that if curbing is run within 2 feet from the trunk of a tree, it will cause a problem for the tree.

C. New Plantings – Bryan and Ginnie did water the new plantings in Applebrook. Mark Miller set up a pump which is spraying the area. Ginnie feels spraying isn't appropriate for trees. There is a large pile of wood chips to be spread. The grass needs to be cut before the chips are spread. There was discussion about the overgrown grass in this area. Sue explained that reforestation is a natural process. As the trees mature, the grass will not grow as high. Adam suggested an article in the Newsletter to explain this process so people understand why the grass is so tall right now. Erich feels it looks better since Mark Miller had the grass mowed from the street up to the path. Bryan and Ginnie will work on an article for the Fall Newsletter.

D. Bird Boxes – Bryan saw a fledgling blue bird go into a box, but, when he checked it later, it has a tree swallow in it. Bryan invited any of the board members to accompany him in July to inspect the boxes.

E. Tree Ordinance - This was approved by the BOS. On a related item, Don mentioned that Kathryn Yahres brought up the subject of historic trees and wants to work with the Conservancy Board to identify any in the township. Ginnie said this has already been done, probably in the 1990s. There is a report somewhere.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Volunteers – At the Community Day event, two people left their names to volunteer. One of them, Brian Hutchinson, wanted to let his lawn become a meadow but received a citation from the township. Erich commented that Mark Gordon said it is allowed if the homeowner seeds it with wildflowers, etc.

B. Trees – Mark Miller did reply to Erich's questions and ideas about trees in the parks. There are signs of rubbing on some, probably from deer. The marks from weed wackers/trimmers were discussed with his staff. Erich feels the best way to eliminate this damage is to put wood chips around the trees. Bryan cautioned against excessive mulching. Bob mentioned that the trees in Applebrook were mulched initially but not lately. A year ago he suggested mulching 6-8 inches out from the tree trunks.

C. Spring House – There was discussion about the spring house by the new bridge in Applebrook. Bob reported that the grass has been mowed around it. Bryan feels it has been cut too low.

D. PA Forestry Assoc. Membership – The Board decided to discontinue this membership.

E. CRC – Ann has a summer intern who is looking for opportunities to work with townships. Bryan will see if he/she wants to help him at Reservoir Road, Monday, July 18th, 9-11am cleaning the cages, etc.

6. SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT/LANDSCAPE PLAN REVIEW

A. Malvern Bank Parking Lot – The Board reviewed the revised landscape plan with the following comments:

1. There is a tree at the entrance from Paoli Pike where a sign will be installed. Recommend relocation. It will most likely have to be removed when it grows and starts to cover the sign.
2. Hawthorns along Paoli Pike – will they cause sightline issues in the future.
3. No plan for the apron between the 2 banks. Consider relocating hawthorns to this area.
4. White Ash tree is on the list of replacement trees. Check to see if this will be susceptible to the ash bore.

Bryan will write a letter and mention that the Board feels there is a good mix of trees, etc. in the plan.

7. BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS/COMMENTS

A. Ginnie reported that she attended a CRC meeting on wetland plantings at Hershey Mill and Springton. Someone from East Goshen sent a letter to the Master Gardeners complimenting Ginnie on how the great job the Conservancy Board is doing educating the residents about conservancy issues.

8. **LIAISON REPORTS**

A. Park & Recreation – Bob reported that Community Day went very well. There is a survey on the website for people to complete and return electronically. Space rentals from the Farmers Market go to Park & Recreation events through the 501c3 Committee. Bob noticed that Public Works was mowing almost to the creek in Applebrook. He spoke to Mark Miller about it because they are only supposed to mow 2 mower widths from the path. The Board will meet at 6 pm before the August 4 meeting to walk Applebrook Park. The Park Board approved acceptance of the grant for installation in East Goshen Park of the Born Learning Trail being donated by CTDL.

B. Planning Commission – Sue reported that the Commission approved the Tree Ordinance and Wireless Ordinance. They are still reviewing everything that may be needed for the Sign Ordinance. TRU Team, 1422 Paolo Pike, did not come to the meeting so their request was denied.

C. Board of Supervisors – The Board of Supervisors granted another 60-day extension until Sept. 24, 2011 to TRU Team. The BOS developed a basic agreement for a cell tower with Liberty Towers. There would be a \$75,000 up-front contribution, then \$4,000/month for the first ten years. It would be placed behind the township building.

In the May minutes, the Conservancy Board wondered, if the Hershey's Mill dam was historic, would it have to be repaired. The answer is yes, it would. Mark Miller put in some handicapped parking at the Ashbridge Park. This was a contribution to the park from the township.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A. Alex Gadson explained that he is a scout in Troop 93 working on a merit badge for Citizenship in the Community. He had to attend a public meeting and didn't know what a Conservancy Board did. From what he has heard tonight, he feels this is a great board. He asked if checking on the bird boxes could be used for community service credit. Bryan will follow up with him.

B. Don reminded the members that their 2012 budget is due in September.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Bryan acknowledged receipt of the letter regarding 922 N. Chester Rd. and the site remediation that was done there.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adam seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary