

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING
August 10, 2011
7:00 P.M.**

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, at the East Goshen Township Building. Board members present were: Chairman Bryan Del Monte, Ginnie Newlin, Scott Sanders, and Walter Wujcik. Also in attendance were Mark Gordon, Zoning Officer; Bob Huebner, Park and Recreation; and Erich Meyer, Park & Recreation.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Bryan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence to remember our troops.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Walter moved to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2011 meeting, as corrected. Ginnie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT

- A. Expenses – Bryan talked to Mark Miller about the cost of the fencing and posts in Applebrook. Mark agreed to remove \$501 from the CB expense for materials/supplies.
- B. Bryan thanked Ginnie for her editing assistance with the newsletter article entitled “Update on Trees and New Understory Plants in Applebrook Park”.
- C. CRC Membership – Ann responded to Bryan’s question about the \$250 membership fee. She said the \$250 that was paid in February 2011 was a donation for the 6th Annual Chester Creek Cleanup not a membership fee. This means that the Conservancy Board may have paid \$500 to CRC last year. Bryan will check on this.
- D. National Bank of Malvern – Mark reported that the comments from the Conservancy Board and Yerkes were reviewed and a revised plan will be submitted. The Y will replace the 3 trees that were removed with 20 new trees. Light standards should be here for the parking lot at the end of the month.
- E. Westtown Lake – At 10:30 am tomorrow August 11, there will be a seminar at the Westtown Lake to go over lake maintenance techniques.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. NLT – Bryan sent WEEDS Inc. a copy of the 6 step plan for controlling the invasives in Applebrook. The estimate from WEEDs is:

- 1. \$300/acre for invasive control (selective spraying etc.)
 - 2. \$500/acre for overseed of the grasses – native mix – anytime after August
 - 3. The spraying will be done 2 times per year – in May/June and August/September.
- Since there is approximately 10 acres to be treated the total annual cost will be \$8,000.

Bryan received an estimate from TOP CROPS as follows:

- 1. \$4,200 for control of the invasives – 3 treatments per year. There was no mention of seeding in their estimate.

The Board reviewed a map of Applebrook with Mark to determine where the treatments would be done. Bryan would prefer the split seed planting that WEEDS does using a device to run a small trench in the dirt and push the seed into the dirt.

Mark suggested that, if seeding will be a reoccurring expense, the Conservancy Board should prepare a narrative to present to the Board of Supervisors. Bob commented that the Park Board will want to see all plans especially when they are planting.

Bryan proposed \$8000 the first year for spraying and overseed, then \$4200 for the second year for spraying which includes a 5% increase. Mark also suggested that the Conservancy Board mention, in their Newsletter articles, the 501c3 option for residents to make donations and get a tax deduction.

- B. New Plantings in Applebrook are looking good especially since there has been some rain. However, the few that were planted in the fill soil around the bridge are at risk and may have to be moved. Bob mentioned that the Lion's Club in West Chester wanted to build a dugout at Kelly Field but Kelly Sports said no. So, the Lions Club is a group that is looking for a community service project.
- C. Bird Nest Boxes – July findings – no report.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Suplee Valley – Bryan and Ginnie inspected the caged plantings at Suplee Valley. They look very good, especially the older plantings. There were 9 that died and could be replaced.
- B. 2012 Budget – The Board decided to ask for a separate line item for the Applebrook Invasives Project and request \$8,000.00 for 2012 for that project. Ginnie made a motion to accept the budget for 2012 as proposed. Walter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed.
- C. Wildflower Meadow – A letter was received from John McGonigle who lives on Highland Ave. regarding a “meadow” in his back yard. Mark acknowledged Mr. McGonigle’s point that the Township needs guidelines for meadows. Mark reported that the Board of Supervisors reviewed a proposed amendment which will allow them to make resolutions to this part of the ordinance. He reviewed §96-2 which is about mowing requirements, and §96-5 which lists exceptions to §96-2 such as wildflower meadows. Mark feels that a wildflower meadow needs to be nurtured and maintained. Letting your grass grow does not make it a meadow. Ginnie recalled what hard work it was when the Conservancy Board attempted to grow a wildflower meadow. It is a lot of work. The Board feels the following items need to be included in the guidelines:
 - 1. Restrict it to the backyard
 - 2. Require at least a 10 foot buffer around the area being turned into a meadow so it won’t encroach on the neighbors’ property.
 - 3. Require submission of a plan
 - 4. Require a fee sufficient enough to cover the cost of inspection(s)
 - 5. Possible inspections – There needs to be accountability

Mark will contact the Conservation District and the County for review.

- D. In August Bryan will probably clean out the bird nest boxes. He will contact the Boy Scout troop to see if they want to be involved in maintaining them.

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

None

7. **BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS/COMMENTS**

None

8. **LIAISON REPORTS**

- A. Park & Recreation – Bob reported that the Pumpkin Festival this year will include an arts and crafts festival in the afternoon. The Farmers Market is doing very well. Some of the ponds in the township have too much algae in them even the ones with aeration. West Goshen is using chemicals along with aeration with good results. Thom Clapper, Ruth Scadding and Bob met with Bruce Griffin from the Y about the Y’s request to use the East Goshen Park for their summer camp. The Board will review the 2012 budget at their next regular meeting. The Board will hold a workshop on August 16 at 10:00 am to discuss the fall festival.
- B. Municipal Authority - Walter reported that they are looking for an out-of-court settlement for the contractor dispute. The plant is meeting current goals and running well. Several pumping stations will be closed and will flow into the expanded plant

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Bryan acknowledged receipt of the letter from John McGonigle.

11. **ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Walter seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary