

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING  
August 8, 2012  
7:00 P.M.**

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, at the East Goshen Township Building. Board members present were: Chairman Sandra Snyder, Vice-Chairman Scott Sanders, Virginia Newlin, Bryan DelMonte, and William Coffey. Others present: Betsy Williams, Park & Recreation Commission; Erich Meyer; Kurt Williams; and Carmen Battavio, Township Supervisor.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Sandy called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chairman noted that the minutes of the July 11, 2012 meeting were approved as corrected. She also noted that the minutes of the July 31, 2012 special site walk meeting were approved as corrected.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** Goshen Meadows – Representatives for Goshen Meadows were: Bill Menke, Registered Landscape Architect; Mark Thompson, Esq.; Tim Marino, Save A Tree; James McCombie and Scott Fagan.

Bill Menke explained the process they use to evaluate the site and trees. He visited the site. Some of the trees have issues. According to the township code, this site is not a wooded site.

He distributed a spreadsheet comparing code requirements and how Goshen Meadows will provide them. The commercial property abutting the Smith property wants screening. The code doesn't require it but the applicant has agreed to do it. He provided a plant schedule.

Bryan asked if any of the trees were 100 years old. Bill said not in their opinion.

Sandy commented that based on the history of the site, the Conservancy Board feels that some trees would be close to 100 years old.

Bryan asked how they determine the age of a tree. Bill answered by the height, size of trunk, species and environment the tree is in. There are many variables such as care of the tree, nutrition, etc.

Sandy commented that if the Conservancy Board gets an arborist to look at the trees, that opinion could be different.

Scott mentioned that the Chester County historical photos show the house with several of the trees when it was built.

Bill M. commented that there is no way to save the 3 trees being discussed because they are in the middle of the site. All red x's on his plan indicate trees to be removed. The plan shows trees that are being added. The applicant is supplying 59 new trees and 106 shrubs. They added some shrub roses (with thorns) in the existing buffer on the east side of the property to discourage people from walking through the residential properties.

Unfortunately, it was determined that the Board members only received copies of the removal plans. They did not receive the landscape plan.

Bill feels the trees they selected are very good trees. Scott agreed.

Bill Coffey commented that the Board may need to get a second opinion. He asked who determines if it is a wooded site or not. Bill M. answered that since East Goshen doesn't have a definition in their ordinance, they used the definition of East Brandywine Township. Mark Thompson mentioned that Mark Gordon, Township Zoning Officer, stated that there is no definition in the East Goshen ordinance.

Bill Coffey made a motion for the Conservancy Board to get a second opinion. Ginnie seconded the motion. Bryan asked how this would be done. Bill M commented that the Board may be wasting money because, even if a tree is over 100 years old, if it is in the wrong place, it will be removed. Tim Marino also pointed out that some of the trees are a potential liability posing a safety hazard. Bill M mentioned that the radius out from these trees is huge and feeder roots would be cut and/or compressed during construction.

Bill Coffey rescinded his motion.

Scott feels that research should be done to look at other township's ordinances regarding wooded sites.

Ginnie restated the motion to get a second opinion. The motion passed with 3 yes and 2 no votes. Resident Steve DiAntonio, 4 Reservoir Road, asked about plantings behind his property. He was told there is a water easement. He and Bill M looked at the map. Bill will have it checked out. The Conservancy Board feels there needs to be some changes made to the ordinance.

Bryan made a motion to investigate a definition for a wooded site. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sandy made a motion that the Conservancy Board should look into adding a 100 year old tree ordinance amendment with criteria to protect older trees in the township. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ginnie thinks a list of historic trees in the township was made. Scott commented that the Champion Tree List of 2011 from the State included some trees in East Goshen.

Public Comment: Kurt Williams mentioned that the health of the trees should be considered.

Tim commented that when considering the sustainability of a tree, just because it has a disease, doesn't mean it will die.

Mark T reminded the Board that the applicant has a hearing on August 22, 2012 and he is requesting an opinion from the Board. This is a Conditional Use application. When the applicant goes to Land Development, there will be more detail in the plans.

Bill C explained that there is a difference in the total trees remaining in the 2 reports the Board has before them – 25 or 40. James McCombie explained the list and revised list and understands that the numbers don't agree. He will look into it.

Sandy said the Conservancy Board appreciates being included in this initial part of the project.

Usually the Conservancy Board is the last to get plans when the application goes to Land Development, which is too late sometimes. Usually the Conservancy Board doesn't give a recommendation for Conditional Use. Sandy will check with Mark Gordon about this. However, the Board can't give a recommendation now because of the conflicting numbers and no detailed plan.

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

A. 2013 Budget – Sandy's understanding of what Jon Altshul requested is that the Conservancy Board's goals need to have a cost assigned to them. Bryan reported that for 2012 the Board had 6 goals which were: recycling, control of invasives, riparian buffer increase, assist Township with grants, continuing education and environmental education. The budget amount was \$5,320.00. There was a discussion of goals/projects:

1. Ginnie feels wetland buffers and open space plantings are important.
2. Recycling – There should be more trash bins in East Goshen and Applebrook Parks.
3. Continuing education – There are organizations in the area that have lots of programs that the Board members can attend and some are free.
4. Environmental education – Betsy mentioned that the Girl Scouts go to the parks often and would like to have the trees and plants labeled. Also, some of the existing signs should be replaced. Bryan commented that the last sign that was made cost approximately \$1,000 and was done by the Public Works Dept. Ginnie pointed out that there are signs for children at the

Supplee Preserve on Reservoir Rd. Sandy reminded everyone that the identification signs that were made for the boardwalk by a Boy Scout were vandalized. Ginnie suggested putting labels on metal stands in the wetlands. They could be moved if needed.

5. Controlling invasives is ongoing. Restoration of East Boot Road should be done in phases.

Scott made a motion to submit the proposed 2013 Budget as

\$3,000 for wetland buffers and plantings

\$1,000 for marketing – signs for promotion of plantings

\$ 800 for control of invasives

\$ 500 for recycling

Totaling \$5,300. Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Sandy reported that letters were written to residents from Grand Oak. She will follow up with Rick Smith regarding the removal of sycamore trees. She will send letters to the residents who went on the site walk at Goshen Meadows.
- C. East Goshen clean-up day – Sandy feels the Conservancy Board should take the lead on this annual project. Board members did not agree with her.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. On August 7, 2012 the Board of Supervisors approved the name of Clymer's Woods for the reforested area in Applebrook. There will be a sign describing the restoration project. Carmen mentioned that he thought there was going to be a historic marker too.
- B. Wood Chips – Sandy reported that Public Works just mowed the Clymer's Woods area. In 5-7 days the wood chips will be installed. Ginnie mentioned that nothing was done inside the fence. Sandy will call Mark Miller.
- C. Newsletter article on the East Goshen Bald Eagles was submitted by Linda Hicks.
- D. Website articles – The articles on riparian buffers and vegetation management should remain on the website. Sandy would like to add a list of approved trees/plants.
- E. Sandy spoke to Rick Smith about supplying more recycling bins in the Township Building. This was done.
- F. The Weeds Inc contract was renewed and signed by Rick Smith. Sandy will get a price from Brian at Weeds to thin the elders. Brian recommended that the Wheat Canary Grass is not invasive and should be left alone.
- G. Pond health – Ginnie reported that Bruce Foreacre and Angie are interested. Fall is the time to do an inspection. Bryan mentioned that Mark Miller has done research on ponds.
- H. A box in the vestibule of the Township Building has been designated for the Conservancy Board and there are articles in it.
- I. The soil sample results report for East Boot Road was tabled until next month.
- J. Supplee Valley – Sandy visited the preserve and took some photos which show the damage done mostly by deer. She feels the trees should be fenced or caged. The tags are gone and the area is overgrown and too hard to mow for now.

## **LIASONS REPORTS**

- A. Board of Supervisors – Carmen reported that they are still working on the police contract.
- B. Park & Recreation Commission – Erich reported that the BOS gave approval for an earthen theater in East Goshen Park.

**ANY OTHER MATTER**

- A. There will be an Electronic Waste Collection Event on Friday, September 7, 2012 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the West Whiteland Township Building parking lot.
- B. The 2012 Household Hazardous Waste Event will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Government Services Center. See the list on the East Goshen website.
- C. The West Nile virus has been identified in Chester County. Wear long sleeves and use repellent when you are outside.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryan seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer  
Recording Secretary