

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2013
7:00 P.M.**

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at the East Goshen Township Building. Board members present were: Chairman Sandra Snyder, Vice-Chairman William Coffey, Scott Sanders, Virginia Newlin, Walter Wujcik, & Rachael Burgos. Others present: Carmen Battavio, Township Supervisor; Betsy Williams and Erich Meyer, Park & Recreation Commission; and Michael Campbell, resident.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to remember our troops.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairman noted that the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting were approved as corrected.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Sandy thanked everyone for responding to Nancy and Frank about the shirts and jackets.

2. Sandy reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the Conservancy Board's request to increase their 2013 budget by \$2,300.00 for the East Boot Road project. Woodlawn Garden Center provided a new invoice for this 2013 project. They want to plant the 10 dogwood trees the first week of April. Public Works must water the trees on a regular schedule. Woodlawn will guarantee the trees for 12-18 months only if they have been properly watered.
Sandy faxed the soil report to Woodlawn. Sandy feels the whole area should be fertilized. Scott suggested she contact Earth Life in Philadelphia, which is a group that donates fertilizer to non-profits. Sandy will contact them to see if their fertilizer is appropriate for this soil condition and when it should be spread on the soil.
The Board decided to do a site walk on Saturday March 9, 2013 at 9:00 am to stake where the trees should be planted.

3. Goals for 2013 – Sandy distributed a letter from Rick Smith, which stated that the Board of Supervisors prioritized the Conservancy Board's goals for 2013. The Board of Supervisors feels that some of the goals the ABCs listed were actually objectives. Rick also provided copies of the "Action Plan" from the Township's Comprehensive Plan. The BOS wants the Board members to go through and identify goals that were assigned to the Conservancy Board, focusing on the high priority items and give a time frame for completion. Sandy wants the Board members to read the plan and be ready to discuss goals at the next meeting.

4. The Township is organizing a Comprehensive Plan Task Force to review and update of the current plan. Meetings will be held at the Township Building the 4th Monday each month for about 18 months. The first meeting will be February 25th at 7:00 pm. Each ABC must select 1 regular member and 1 alternate member. The Conservancy Board will be represented by Sandy with Walter as the alternate.

5. Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day will be held on Saturday April 6, 2013. Sandy feels the CB should be more involved in this event. She encouraged everyone to participate. Also, Sandy mentioned an idea that Kathryn Yahraes had, to do a Spring stream cleanup. Walter feels this is a good idea for this year because there is no Spring planting planned.

6. Sandy mentioned that the Township is planning to convert the Township Building to geothermal heating in the Fall.

7. Sandy mentioned that Betsy stopped in to show everyone a photo of the recycling bin that is being considered for the parks and the bin that Mark Miller designed. They would like to have Mark's bin painted a darker green. The Conservancy Board will agree with the Park & Rec's decision.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Goshen Meadows – Sandy reported that Goshen Meadows was granted an extension so there are no revised plans for the Conservancy Board to review. She reminded Mark Gordon that the CB members must have copies of the plans before the meeting when the review/approval is expected.

2. Amphitheater - Sandy commented that there are no "plans" for this project. Mark Miller will show the Board where it is going to be located so they can give input. She will see if he can be available on March 9th.

3. Two new bat houses and 1 blue bird box were given to Mark Miller. He needs to know where to put them. They should be put in a meadow and not near trees. Bill will get some input from Ken Liester, head of the local Blue Bird Society, and friend of his father.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Clymer's Woods – Ginnie wrote a summary of the Conservancy Board's woodland project and a biography of George Clymer, who signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and owned property in East Goshen. This was approved by Chris Reardon, Chairman of the Historical Commission and given to Mark Miller to put on the sign.

2. Blue Bird Box Cleaners – Betsy Williams is affiliated with the Girl Scouts and mentioned to Sandy that the girls are always looking for projects. She asked about the age of volunteers for this project. The Conservancy Board feels 12 years old and up is appropriate.

3. Zoning Ordinances – Sandy asked the Board members what they were able to get from other townships since the last meeting.

a. Easttown & Tredyffrin – Bill has hard copies from both townships of the sections the CB is interested in reviewing.

b. West Chester & East Bradford – Scott has information from West Chester and is waiting for East Bradford to provide their information.

c. Malvern – Walter got their information on line.

d. National Lands Trust – Ginnie contacted the NLT and they sent her copies from several municipalities including Lower Merion, New Garden, etc. Also, Willistown sent her their ordinance. Some include charts for heritage trees listing the types of trees and sizes required to be considered heritage trees.

e. Charlestown – Sandy read their ordinance and found that they have a lot about protection of trees in their subdivision ordinance, which means that developers must meet those requirements in the planning and permit process. She has started to review the East Goshen Zoning Ordinance and found the following so far:

(1) Chapter 13 – Conservancy Board –

There are no definitions for meadowlands, woodlands, wetlands.

In §13-4 it states that the BOS designates a Chairman, which may need to be amended because the Board has always elected the chairman.

(2) Chapter 96 covers brush, grass and weeds.

Over the next several months, Sandy wants the Board to review definitions that they found in other ordinances.

4. Rain Barrels – Sandy spoke to Rick Smith about the idea of installing a rain barrel at the Township building as an educational tool for the residents. Rick showed her where he would put it. Rain barrels are sold by Chester County. Rachael will check other sources for pricing. Bill explained that his father installed a rain barrel and wrote a set of instructions, which Bill will get. This could be used as a newsletter article.

NEWSLETTER

Scott will provide an article on proper pruning. Also, Ginnie's poem will be put in the Newsletter.

LIASONS REPORTS

1. Board of Supervisors – In addition to the Chairman's report above, Erick reported for Carmen that the BOS is planning final interviews for a new Chief of Police. Sandy commented that Officer Ruggeri took a position with another police department so we will not have a canine unit. We will use the Sheriff's unit as needed.
2. Historical Commission – Living History Day will be held on Sat. June 1, 2013
3. Park & Recreation Commission – Erich reported that the Winter Farmers Market is doing well. They are considering a new piece of equipment for the Tot Lot in the park. The West Chester Garden Club received a memorial donation and offered to do a project in the Park. The Commission is considering a rain garden and needs input from the Conservancy Board for a suitable location. Ginnie's concern is locating the garden where there is water flow and maintenance of the garden.
4. Planning Commission – They approved New Kent's plans with some conditions. They discussed the Comprehensive Plan update and the initial meeting about Dunkin' Donuts.
5. Municipal Authority – Walter reported that the treatment plant had no exceedances last month. They approved bids for the Hershey's Mill and the Reserve pump stations.

ANY OTHER MATTER

1. Michael Campbell, 1339 Mark Dr., resident, presented the following: A proposal for the safety, accessibility and enjoyment of the environmental open space on Reservoir Rd. The idea would be for a natural walking path going from the bridge on Baldwin Drive, then along Reservoir Road ending at the bridge crossing Chester Creek. The safety aspect would be for the walkers and joggers along Reservoir Road. Many of the local residents enjoy walking around Rockland Village using Cooper Circle, Baldwin Drive and Mark Drive. The dangerous section of the walk is along Reservoir Road. Many years ago a woman was jogging on E. Strasburg Road near Reservoir Rd and was hit by a car. She lost one of her legs. Reservoir Road gets busier every year partially because of the East Goshen Industrial Park. The road is too narrow for both cars and walkers. Also, a crosswalk installed at both ends of Cooper Circle might slow the traffic before the stop sign. The open space would be more inviting and accessible, with the natural walking path between the two bridges, to all of the residents of East Goshen. Residents could walk to the picnic area, the creek or just enjoy a little piece of nature. This Chester Creek bridge to bridge natural walking path might be a good way to conserve the beauty of some of our open space. Sandy commented that walking and biking trails are popular projects in Chester County right now. Rachael lives on Reservoir Road and agrees with the fact that a lot of residents walk and jog in this area. Speeding is also a concern. The Board liked the idea and agreed that, if the path can be installed using the space that Public Works currently mows, the path should be installed. If it will

take more space and impacts the special grasses, the Board will have to revisit this request. Sandy will discuss this with Mark Miller.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ginnie seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary