

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING**

June 12, 2013

7:00 P.M.

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the East Goshen Township Building. Board members present were: Chairman Sandra Snyder, Bryan Del Monte, Rachael Burgos, Scott Sanders, Virginia Newlin, & Walter Wujcik. Others present: Erich Meyer, Park & Recreation Commission and Arthur Jones, 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 and first responders.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting will be reviewed at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Mr. Jones commented that he noticed that the Clymer Woods area has been mowed already for the second time. His proposal is to let the grass grow in the middle where the trees are and only mow along the edge of the pathway. He gave out copies of information sheets about Native Warm Season Grass Meadows – Converting an abandoned field. They are from the Natural Lands Trust and copies of the sheets for Willistown and Bradford Township were also included. Sandy mentioned that the Board of Supervisors has instructed Mark Miller to keep this area mowed. Walter mentioned that the reasons are 1. They consider this an entrance into East Goshen and want it to look nice and 2. They are concerned about the safety of walkers because you can't see the back side of the walkway. Mr. Jones is willing to go before the BOS. Sandy asked him to notify her so the Conservancy Board members can be there to support him.

Ginnie mentioned that a million dollar home was built in Wayne and instead of lawns they grew meadows.

Bryan commented that he counted 12 ground hogs in Applebrook Park in the areas that are mowed. Ground hogs don't like tall grasses.

Erich mentioned that, if you are going to let grass grow and only mow it 1 or 2 times a season, the grass will be too high for the Township mowers to cut around the trees.

Scott commented that there are people who have to do community service and they could be brought in to cut in a more manual way. There would be no labor cost.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Sandy received an update from Bill that the rain barrel and platform are complete. He will contact Rick Smith about installing it at the Township Building.
2. Bryan reported that Betty Lewis, who lives on Hershey Mill Rd, contacted him about erosion along stream and about vines growing on the trees and phone poles. However, the area where the vines are is in East Whiteland Township. Sandy will refer to Bryan's notes and write a letter to her giving the names and phone numbers of people to contact.
3. Community Day is Sat June 22. Erich asked if anyone can volunteer to help, get in touch with him. There are 2 shifts – 5 to 7 and 7 to 9 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2005 Comprehensive Plan update. Sandy put the agenda she received from the Brandywine Conservancy on the white board as follows:
 1. What are the Conservancy Board's visions for Natural Resources?
 - a. Vision includes people
 - b. How do residents interact with local environment?
 - c. How do natural resources fit with other important areas of the Comp Plan?
 2. Does the existing Comp Plan support the CB's vision?
 - a. Policy, goals and objectives
 - b. Are the current goals supporting the CB's vision?
 3. Review action steps in Chapter 10
 - a. What has been accomplished, what has not and why not?
 4. CP-2005 Appendix D – Inventories
 - a. Still accurate?
 - b. Any changes/updates?
 5. The Open Space, Recreation and Environmental Resource Plan (1993) is mentioned in the 2005 Comp Plan but Sandy couldn't locate a digital copy. Later during the discussion, Walter found a copy on the bookshelf.
 6. Review 1st section of the SCA
 7. SCA – Inadequate definition of “forest”
 - a. map of woodlands
 8. Major topic areas that the CP2015 has to address

Discussion:

Walter - The vision could be to keep East Goshen beautiful.

Sandy – Residents use the parks, walk on the boardwalk and in preserves like Supple Valley.

Bryan – East Goshen is at the headwaters of Ridley and Chester Creeks. There should be no negative impact on the good quality of the water in East Goshen.

Sandy – The Brandywine Conservancy was very impressed with the high quality of the water.

Ginnie –The 150 foot setback from streams (buffer) should be implemented. The current buffer is only 50 Feet.

Bryan – Has seen some areas where the buffer is only 10 – 20 feet.

Sandy – There is no space left for development so redevelopment needs to be addressed.

Some Natural Resources in East Goshen:

- Ridley and Chester Creeks
- Open Spaces
- Riparian Buffer Zones
- Serpentine rock
- All wildlife and fauna supported by these resources

Walkways:

Scott – Start the discussion again on the walkway proposed by a resident along Reservoir Road in Supplee Valley.

Ginnie – For years there has been discussion about ways for people to walk to the “town center” and bike.

Bryan – There is a “path” from East Goshen Elementary School to the Wawa/Peppermill area that is awful. In the Comp Plan there is reference to “linking landscapes”.

Bryan feels that the “benefits” of the plan should be for Present and Future Generations.

Comp Plan Review

Chapter 1, sec 4 – was reviewed. It should prohibit redevelopment in highly sensitive areas.

Need a definition for legacy or heritage trees and woodland. These should be protected resources.

Ginnie – If a legacy tree is on private property and they want to cut it down, this situation has to be covered. Some municipalities don't let you do this – it is written into the community rules.

Driplines – In high density forest situations, the dripline should be extended.

Scenic Vistas – is there a definition? Scenic roads are listed in Appendix G pg 11.

4b3 – recommend green and sustainable development

4c1 (also in Chap 1, 4b) – Stormwater management –

Bryan would like to include something more specific about stormwater. What is the total % of impervious coverage for the township?

The Conservancy Board should be included in the review of stormwater management plans and provide recommendations during land development.

4d3 invasives – Since this is a goal the BOS gave the CB, there should be a new item to promote invasives control.

Chapter 10 – Actions review

Page 10-4, 2a 2-6 implemented

Page 10-9, 3b 1-2 – natural corridors – uncertain who is the lead, Planning Commission or CB

Page 10-10, 4a 2-1 – serpentine inventory – need assistance from a professional to locate these areas

4a 3-1 – native plants list – done

Definitions – done

Tree protection zone – done

4a 4-1 – Revise subdivision and land development ordinance re headwaters and riparian forest buffers – not completed

Note: Joint responsibilities on actions create confusion.

Page 10-11, 4b 1-1 – Review impervious coverage regulations – will review ordinance

4c 1-1 – educate citizens – done and on-going

Note: Paper newsletter was discussed. It was decided by the Board members that a letter will be written to the BOS asking them to reconsider their decision to stop the paper newsletter. Sandy will do this.

Page 10-34, 9e3 1 & 2 are done

Appendix D – Inventory

D6 – riparian forest needs to be updated to 150 feet for the buffer

D13 – Woodlands

Other comments;

Bryan – would like to see birding as a natural resource

Would like to see electric car charger stations – start with the Township building.

Rachael – mow walkways

Ginnie – new term – ecological interdependence

Support preservation of historical open space around historic buildings.

Sandy will make an outline of the discussion.

Comp Plan Task Force – Sandy will not be able to attend the next meeting on Monday June 24. Walter is the alternate. Sandy encouraged all Board members to attend since this is the meeting that will cover natural resources.

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 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer

Recording Secretary