

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
July 22, 2013**

The East Goshen Township Comprehensive Plan Task Force held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday July 22, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the East Goshen Township building.

Members in attendance were:

Susan Carty, Task Force Chairman, Planning Commission
Dan Daley, Planning Commission
Kathryn Yahraes, Historical Commission
Erich Meyer, Park & Recreation Commission
Charles Proctor, Township Supervisor
Sandra Snyder, Conservancy Board
Al Zuccarello, Commerce Commission

Consultants present were:

John Theilacker, Project Manager, Brandywine Conservancy
Tony Robalik, Associate Planner, Brandywine Conservancy
Jeannine Speirs, Chester Co. Planning Commission

Township Staff:

Mark Gordon, Dir. Of Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer

Alternates:

Marty Shane, Township Supervisor

Others:

Janet Emanuel, Township Supervisor

COMMON ACRONYMS:

BC – Brandywine Conservancy

BOS – Board of Supervisors

Comp Plan – Comprehensive Plan

CPTF – Comprehensive Plan Task Force

CAP – Climate Action Plan

DBH – Diameter, Breadth & Height of trees

*OSRER – Open Space, Recreation &
Environmental Resources Plan*

SCA – Sustainable Communities Assessment

SWM – Stormwater Management

TDR – Transferable Development Rights

TND – Traditional Neighborhood Development

TOD – Transit Oriented Development

VPP – Vision Partnership Program

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Dan Daley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a moment of silence to remember our troops.

Charles Proctor announced that he is resigning from the Task Force due to his additional responsibilities as Police Commissioner and member of the Friends of East Goshen. Janet Emanuel will be taking his place on the Task Force.

Old Business

Natural Resources – Sandy Snyder explained that the Conservancy Board dedicated their June meeting to review of the 2005 Comp Plan. They used Tony's guidelines and discussed Chapter 1, Chapter 10 and Appendix D of the 2005 Comp Plan. Items they discussed:

1. Their vision in general is to keep beautifying and protecting the open space that we have.
2. They feel the residents would like to have more pathways so they can easily get to the open spaces and interact with the environment. A resident has presented a plan for a path along Reservoir Road in Supplee Valley. Pathways to the town center were discussed.
3. Increasing the riparian buffer along streams was discussed.
4. Chapter 1, sec 4 – Prohibiting Development in Protected Areas – Heritage/legacy trees were discussed. Also extending the drip line of trees on construction sites was discussed. John suggested they make a list of the trees of interest and where they are located. Janet mentioned that a tree was saved during the construction of Hershey's Mill. Erich was able to use his Ipad to find information about the tree. It was a Penn Treaty tree and was saved in 1989. Sandy believes there are 6 – 10 historic trees in East Goshen.
5. They also need a definition of woodland.
6. For Scenic Vistas, a list of roads is shown in Appendix G.
7. Stormwater Management - The residents need to be educated about the importance of SWM.
8. The Conservancy Board would like to be included in the SWM part of building plans.
9. Invasives – The CB has taken control of invasives. Most recently a professional was hired to treat the Alder trees in Applebrook, which could take over in a few years.
10. Natural Corridors – They aren't sure who is supposed to take the lead on this, the CB or the PC?
11. Serpentine Inventory – The CB feels a professional should be hired to locate all of the serpentine rock in East Goshen.
12. Include birding as a natural resource.
13. Future ideas – electric car chargers at the Township Building or parks.

Discussion:

Marty mentioned that recycling is a responsibility of the CB. He feels recycling should be included in the updated Comp Plan.

Marty pointed out that, if you want birding, you have to include the steps to get there. Tony commented that not everything has to be in an ordinance. Some ideas can be projects or policies. He presented a map at the last meeting that showed woodland opportunities. If that becomes a project, you could select trees that provide habitat for wildlife.

Sustainable Communities Assessment (SCA) and Board Direction

John reported that he attended a meeting with the BOS to discuss the SCA and then a follow-up meeting last week. He feels that the BOS did not see a value in the SCA. They felt it put the Township in a negative light and some items were inappropriate for East Goshen. The BOS is proud of East Goshen and several members want to maintain it as it is today. The BOS is holding a public meeting tomorrow night to discuss the commercial aspects of the Township.

Sue commented that bringing the concept of a vision into the updated Comp Plan is different from the 2005 Comp Plan. Some feel that an economic focus is needed in the updated Comp Plan. There are 2 commercial/industrial areas that are a concern today and they feel they will be a concern in the future. Marty mentioned that the BOS is aware that East Goshen is one of the premiere residential communities in Chester County and they want that to continue into the future. What is needed to maintain this status?

Marty spoke about the commercial/economic issues and how these businesses help with the taxes. The BOS is not against change, but they want the township to continue to be premiere.

Al mentioned that the Commerce Commission will be holding 2 forums in the Fall – one with the shopping center and retail owners and the other with the corporate/business park owners. He explained that these business people are always looking for ways to be profitable. The Commerce Commission will be asking what the Township can do to help them be profitable.

John cautioned that they need to stay within the scope of work under the grant so they don't go over the budget. About 1/3 of the budget has been used so far. Sue asked John to give the Task Force regular budget updates.

1993 Open Space & Recreation Plan – John mentioned that the BOS has issued an RFP for a professional planner to update the Open Space Plan. Part of this person's responsibilities will be to submit an application for a county grant. However, the county will not provide another grant until the Comp Plan update is done. Mark mentioned that 3 responses have been received. They will be looking at other options for possible grants.

Jeannine explained that a Comp Plan is a general plan. Then you make a more specific plan for the different focus areas. "Landscapes 2" has tools for the townships to use. It is on their website.

Historic & Cultural Resources

Kathryn passed around notes from the last Historical Commission meeting which was a workshop dedicated to review of the 2005 Comp Plan. They reviewed Chapter 1 for an overview and Chapter 5 for more detail. They will review Chapter 10 and Appendix E at a later date. She reviewed some of the changes that were recommended.

1. Chapter 1, Sec 5A – Add – The Historical Commission will investigate the process for applying to the National Historic Register.
2. Throughout the Comp Plan, wherever the term "reenactment events" is used, change it to programs & resources.
3. Chapter 5 – Several actions need to be deleted.
4. Changes in Chapter 1 should be made in Chapter 5.
5. Rocky Hill, Milltown and Hershey's Mill areas were discussed.

Jeannine feels there should be an outline of Historic inventories in the updated plan. Kathryn feels the problem with the 2005 Comp Plan is that the ABC's didn't know how to use it. She felt it was better to have the Commission review the current plan and later, when the new format is decided, make changes to fit that format.

Review of Implementable Plan format

Tony provided a copy of a draft chapter in the format they are recommending. The chapter starts with a description of the individual issues, then explains the vision for the future of each, then outlines an implementation strategy for each issue containing steps and tiers for the priorities. Janet feels it would be better to have all the items related to an issue listed under that issue instead of skipping around. Tony mentioned that appendices will contain items that are not a priority and will have less detail.

John verified for Mark that, when the update is approved, the 2005 Comp Plan will be repealed.

Proposed Plan Focal Areas

John developed a draft list of focal topics. Please review it for discussion at the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Sue noted that the minutes of the June 24, 2013 meeting were approved.

Mark reported that the Local Traffic Committee met to address most of the items that came up at the Visioning Session.

Adjournment

The next regular meeting will be Monday August 26, 2013 at 7:00 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary