

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE COMMITTEE  
December 19, 2013  
Final**

Present

Dan Daley, Chairman and Committee members: Carmen Battavio, Heidi Karpa, Chris Reardon, Ginnie Newlin, and Donald Zemruski. Park Directors; Frank Vattilano and Jason Lang were in attendance. Mark Gordon, Zoning Officer, Ann Toole and Tony Robuk from the Brandywine Conservancy were also in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Dan Daley. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and there was a moment of silence for our military troops. Carmen Battavio asked that there be a moment of silence remembering Art Polishuk who passed away this month and served 20 years on the Planning Commission.

Feature on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space System

Ann Toole reported that everyone loves our playground facility in East Goshen Township Park. It is a safe, clean popular family gathering place. Residents are looking for bicycling trails in the parks and to have bike paths in other areas in the Township. Ms. Toole said that she looked at the comment cards that Frank Vattilano handed out at the Pumpkin Day Festival and she said that most of the residents filled out #4 which was excellent category on the cards. She said she got a couple of category #3's which was listed as good. On the cards people filled out that they liked Township special events such as Community Day, Pumpkin Festival and the Egg Hunt. The Senior Adult forum has been rescheduled for January 14, 2013 from 10 a.m to 11 a.m.

Natural Resources Inventory

Tony Robuk, a representative from the Brandywine Conservancy gave a presentation on Natural Resources Inventory to the Committee members. This is an inventory of municipal natural resources organized under the broad categories of water, land and biotic resources. Mr. Robuk showed various maps of the Township's water resources, watersheds, stream corridors, land resources and headwater areas. This information would be a good tool for active and passive recreation. Bike trails and pathways could be created using this information.

Demographics

Mr. Robuk stated that the median age for Township residents living East Goshen Township has risen according to the census. The median age is 47.3 in 2010. This is an increase of 5.8 years in a 10 year time period. The age group from 30 to 49 years of age has gone down. An increase of recreational activities for older adults will have to be planned. The Committee also reviewed a budget analysis sheet showing facts and figures regarding the park and recreation budget and a rough estimate on maintenance of open space and active areas.

Chris Reardon said that he noticed senior citizens using the walking trails when he visited the park. Committee members said that lawn treatments cause problems when the chemicals used for the lawns end up in our waterways. Council of Governments such (COG's) help with land and water restoration since open space areas span in more than one township. Many non-residents come to East Goshen Township Park. Discussions on how we can support our park systems could be brought up at COG meetings.

#### Park Director Presentation

Frank Vattilano gave a presentation on our youth rec program. He said that it is \$85.00 a week for a half day program for one child. His youth rec program is education based; and not a center where children are dropped off. Carmen Battavio stated that he received requests to have the program extend to full day and he gave the suggestion that we could partner up with the YMCA or ACAC. Our summer programs include tennis clinics, soccer instruction programs, volleyball, and a youth program for young children under the age of 6 at the pavilion for 3 hours on Tuesday mornings. Township residents like group programs such as the Egg Hunt, Community Day and the Pumpkin Festival. Mr. Vattilano said that it cost \$26,000 to have a Community Day. He said the Friends of East Goshen will help raise money for the event. Businesses and companies are contracted for contributions. The Township Community Day flyer will publish the names of the businesses and organizations that contribute and they are distinguished if they are a gold, silver or bronze donor. We have signs in the park advertising their businesses when we hold the event. Mr. Jason Lang was introduced as the new Park and Recreation Director.

#### October 17, 2013 Minutes

The minutes for October 17, 2013 were corrected and approved.

#### Meeting Notice

Ann Toole said that the next meeting will be on Thursday, January 23, 2014. The Open House meeting would be scheduled on Thursday, January 30, 2014.

#### Adjournment

Ms. Ann Toole made to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. The Open Space Task Force Committee adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Morgan  
Receptionist/Secretary

