

East Goshen Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Study Committee Meeting

**Thursday January 23, 2014 7:00 P.M.
East Goshen Township Building**

Agenda

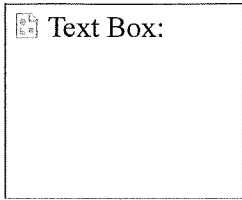
1. Welcome
2. Progress Report and Findings– Outreach, Questionnaires, Upcoming Tasks
3. Parks and Recreation Facilities Discussion
4. Open House/Public Forum Discussion
5. Next Steps

Meeting Preparation

Please read the focus group reports and complete the two online questionnaires that Mark Gordon sent to you.

Would you please continue in your efforts to personally invite people to participate in our open house/public forum. Don't forget: yummy food will be served!

THANKS!



East Goshen Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Conservancy Board Historic Commission Focus Group Report January 8, 2014

Participants

Walter Wujcik, Sandy Snyder, Erich Meyer, Ginny Newlin, Chris Reardon, and Judy Schafer.

Public: Bill Egan

Ann M. Toole, Toole Recreation Planning

1. **Purpose** – To obtain the ideas, suggestions and concerns about the municipal parks, recreation and open space system from the perspective of citizens working in the area of conservation and historic preservation for East Goshen Township.
2. **Plan Purpose** – Ann Toole explained the project, purpose of the plan, process, coordination with the Comprehensive Plan, public outreach, and planning team members including the Brandywine Conservancy and the Natural Lands Trust.
3. **Discussion included input from participants regarding the best aspects of East Goshen's parks, recreation and open space system related to conservation, open space and historic preservation; what needs to be improved, added or changed; and one most important thing to accomplish.**

Best Features

- á Trails, especially for walking.
- á The parks are very welcoming.
- á The services such as the special events provided by the Recreation Department make the parks work well.
- á Lots of places to sit.
- á Historic Goshenville – a fine example of historic preservation, restoration and collaborative management among the Recreation Department, Public Works, the Conservancy Board and the Historic Commission.
- á Studies done by the Natural Lands Trust for Appleb-Brook Park and the Morris Arboretum for the wetlands park are very helpful.
- á Public Works is very collaborative in advancing conservation and preservation efforts through their work. Mark Miller does an excellent job.
- á The Township committees work closely together and support common interests for the betterment of the Township.
- á The committees undertake important projects such as reforestation such as on the corner of Line Road and Paoli Pike.
- á—A new program,
- á ÓGo, WilmaÓ in collaboration with Willistown will be a family based program aimed at getting people to discover community resources such as the historic buildings and other features. Ann Toole suggested that they submit the program to the Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society's annual awards program in 2015 for a potential award. Submissions would be due in November – January.

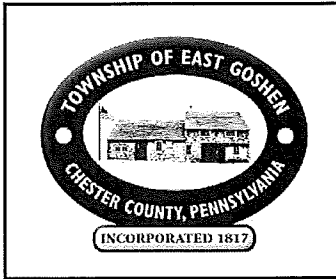
Potential Improvements and Ways to Enhance Parks, Recreation and Open Space -through Conservation, Open Space and Historic Preservation

- á Stream impairment needs to be addressed.

- á Return many grass areas to meadow.
- á Plan for and establish buffers to protect historic resources.
- á While the Conservancy Board does riparian buffer work, there is no active management or plan for improving stream quality. It is important to focus on stream quality management.
- á Use Valley Forge National Historic Park as model for unifying historic and recreational use of the parks and historic and cultural resources in East Goshen Township.
- á Need interpretive exhibits in the parks.
- á Need to add historic and cultural resource information to park master plans.
- á Develop an updated serpentine map with specific locations of this important natural feature. Develop and implement a management plan to conserve it and restore it where needed.
- á Need to establish conservation and environmental protection as high value goals with less emphasis on creating a manicured appearance of public space. It is possible to have natural areas that are publically perceived as well cared for without being manicured.
- á Consider the establishment of natural surface pathways. Strive to reduce the use of macadam and impervious surfaces.

One Most Important Thing to Accomplish with the Plan

- á Advance the Township's strong interest in recycling including placing recycling cans next to all trash cans. Consider the potential for a "pack-it-in/pack-it-out" trash policy in new public spaces or in existing passive parks or as appropriate. Craft a public awareness program to explain the policy and its benefits. Use only where appropriate, excluding major active parks and recreation facilities such as ball fields.
- á Strive to conserve remaining open space through evaluation of important parcels to protect from development and the development of creative approaches to make the preservation of additional open space feasible.
- á Create a management plan for conservation easements.
- á Create connectivity with adjoining municipalities to foster regional trail access and use by our residents.
- á Safe crossing between the parks on Paoli Pike with suggestions including a bridge or a tunnel.
- á Make the plan user friendly and easy to read and follow.



East Goshen Township Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan Active Senior Adult Focus Group Report January 14, 2014

Participants

Ginny Newlin, Walter Wujcik, and Wilhelm Sandvik. While about six others were expected, they were unable to participate due to personal circumstances

Ann M. Toole, Toole Recreation Planning

1. **Purpose** – To obtain the ideas, suggestions and concerns about the municipal parks, recreation and open space system from the perspective of active senior citizens.
2. **Plan Purpose** – Ann Toole explained the project, purpose of the plan, process, coordination with the Comprehensive Plan, public outreach, and planning team members including the Brandywine Conservancy and the Natural Lands Trust.
3. **Discussion included input from participants regarding their recreational pursuits and interests, aspects of East Goshen's parks, recreation and open space system and other recreational opportunities and facilities in the area; what needs to be improved, added or changed; and one most important thing to accomplish.**

Recreational Pursuits

- Tennis was a major interest. Pickle ball has proven to be a good substitute for tennis enabling people to continue to play form many more years. Tennis courts require permits to control use, vandalism and ensure preferential use by residents.
- Dog walking
- Hiking
- Enjoying nature
- Bringing visitors out to the parks
- Use other facilities in the area such as the Brandywine Y.
- Aquatics and fitness for active aging adults is important.

Park and Recreation Preferences and Suggestions for East Goshen Township

- Walking paths in natural settings.
- Parking is important for people with mobility challenges.
- No pressing need for indoor facilities.
- Protect remaining open space.

- Have garden programs and interpretation of natural features such as trees, flowers etc.
- More outreach and publicity. Provide an information packet about parks and recreation to the newcomers.
- The LCD signs cheapen the Township.
- Residents of Hershey's Mill do use the township parks. Township residents can also use the paths in Hershey's Mill.
- More nature based areas. Consider Ashbridge as the natural public area for East Goshen Township complementing the community parks of Applebrook and East Goshen Township Park. Interview the Ashbridge management to determine how they feel about advertising the preserve for public use.
- Look into equestrian use and interview Thornridge stables.
- Determine if there are enough ballfields.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE
IN EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP?



**Public Meeting about
Parks, Recreation &
Open Space**

**Thursday
January 30, 2014**

(snow date: Monday Feb. 3)

6:00 P.M.

Open House

7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

**Presentation and
Public Discussion**

**Refreshments
included: mini-subs,
soft drinks and
cookies**

You are invited to become part of an important discussion taking place right now in our township: How can we enhance the quality of life in our community through parks, recreation, & open space ?

Open House at 6:00 P.M.: *Participants can have a bite to eat and talk with the planning team and township staff about parks, recreation, and open space; view maps and materials about the parks; and provide ideas for the plan.*

Public Forum at 7:00 P.M.: *The planning team will make a brief presentation about parks, recreation and open space and the plan. Then you get to tell us your ideas, concerns and suggestions for the plan. We really want to hear what our citizens have to say!*

***Would you please help us make our township even better
by participating in this important meeting?***

For further information, please contact:
Mark Gordon, Township Zoning Officer
(610) 692-7171 or mgordon@eastgoshen.org

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

Present

Dan Daley, Chairman and Committee members: Carmen Battavio, Heidi Karpa, Chris Reardon, Ginnie Newlin, and Donald Zembruski. 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

The median age for East Goshen Township has risen. 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

