

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2007**

Present: Chairman Don McConathy, Vice Chairman Thom Clapper, Joseph McDonough, and Marty Shane were in attendance. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Deer Management Committee members Jim McRee, Al Zuccarello, Bob Huebner, Walter Wujik, and Linda Polishuk and Conservancy Board liaison Jane Fava, and Historical Commission representative Kathryn Yahraes.

Executive Session

From 6:30 p.m to 7:30 p.m. the Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session to interview candidates for ABC openings.

Workshop

A. Byers, 1607 Margo Lane (Variance request). The applicant Joan Fleckenstien, architect, was present representing the property owner Elisabeth Byers and her finance, Skip Chalfant. The first section of the house was found in tax records for 1820. In 1830 a small addition was put on. Another addition was done in 1930. Ms. Fleckenstein distributed photos of the property from different angles. The original property was subdivided and Davis Circle added. About 1.495 acres was left for this property. At this point the setback made the house non-conforming. There are a number of mature trees on the property. Over the years, the owner has worked with Bartlett Tree Experts to maintain these trees. The existing hemlock is the only one of its kind to survive. The proposed plan will add onto the 1930's addition and work around the hemlock. She showed the proposed elevation from Davis Circle. Of the total new square footage, 334 sq. ft. will be involved in the encroachment. The current encroachment distance is 10.9 feet. The new addition will be less at 9.75 feet.

Marty Shane moved that the Board of Supervisors support this application which enables them to preserve the older building and tree. Letters from the neighbor, Bartlett Tree, the Historical Commission and the Planning Commission should be included with the Board of Supervisors letter to the Zoning Hearing Board. Thom Clapper seconded the motion. There was discussion about sending a board member to the hearing. Kathryn Yahraes reaffirmed the support of the Historical Commission. They feel that Ms. Byers is a good steward of the historic property and the tree which is important to maintain. The Historic Commission strongly supports the application. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution 07-42 – This is for a \$20,000 grant to go towards the cost of the new bathrooms in the East Goshen Park. The Resolution will give Don McConathy the authority to sign on behalf of the Township. Thom Clapper moved to adopt the Resolution 07-42. Marty Shane seconded the motion. John Schorn, 1401 Larch Lane asked what the total cost was. Rick Smith said \$50,000. Howard Jones, 1048 Kennett Way voiced concern about security. Rick Smith explained that external light comes on at night. The bathrooms are not locked because of the cost to have someone lock and unlock them each day. There have only been occasional minor vandalism problems at the current bathrooms. The police patrol the Park. There was no further discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Trash – Don McConathy moved to authorize the execution of the contract with McCusker & Ogborne. Joe McDonough seconded the motion. John Schorn asked what the total cost will be. Don said about \$1 million a year for 3 years. Linda Polishuk asked if the township could get more days for leaf pickup. Rick stated the new contract will have the same number of days. There was no further discussion or comment. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Deer Management Committee – Jim McRee represented the committee. Don commended the members of the committee for all their hard work. They have done a great job of getting people to look at this topic from every angle possible. Jim commented that in June, the committee gave a report that found there is a deer problem in East Goshen. The major threat, though, is Lyme Disease. Chester County has the 2nd highest density of the disease in the U.S. The proposal being presented tonight is for a 4-Post Feeder Bait Station. The Bait Station is filled with corn. As the deer eat the corn, rollers apply a tickicide to them that kills the ticks. We need to find residents who are willing to put a station on their property.

The proposal assumes the purchase and installation of 10 Bait Stations (assume on private property). There are two scenarios: #1 the Township provides all materials and services; #2 the Township only provides materials – the property owner does the servicing and maintenance. The recommendation is one station for every 50 acres. Jim said they have informal interest from 3 residents at Hershey's Mill. Kennett Square is using this system on private property. The chemical is considered safe. It is used in RIDD. If the property owner also allows a hunt, then those deer could be checked for ticks to determine how well the program is working. Studies show a significant decrease in ticks. The proposal doesn't factor in all of the labor time that may be needed to service this program. The committee recommends that the Township provide service and materials. They are trying to get data that is available about the number of deer killed on roads.

Marty asked if the Township can do the service on private property. Rick stated that the property owners would sign an agreement allowing the township to maintain the station and holding the Township harmless. Everyone agreed that the Board needs legal counsel on public vs private property liability and the documentation needed for a program such as this.

Don is concerned about the cost of full service to deliver and fill the stations each week with corn. Jim stated this is a 40 week/year operation. Peak season is now and Spring. There would be nothing in January, February and March. The manufacturer wants to know that the stations are being maintained and wants access to them too.

Rick asked how long the stations last. Al Zuccarello stated the program would be for 3 years. He discussed the different kinds of posts. Don suggested that someone look into possible grants.

Rick asked if the Board wants to put \$25,000 in the budget now for 2008. All agreed to this. The Board will revisit this proposal at the meeting on November 13th, hopefully with legal advice.

Rick asked the Board if the DMC work is done. Marty stated there is still the open issue about hunting. Don feels that the issue here is how many deer would have to be eliminated in order to maintain the herd at a minimum level. Marty suggested doing a survey of the residents. Thom doesn't think \$20,000 should be spent on a survey. The DMC has shown there is a problem. He feels it is the BOS responsibility to make the decision about hunting. Linda Polishuk . stated that she heard that out of a herd of 120, 15 should be eliminated per year. Mark Gordon's program in 2005 eliminated 12. Jim raised the issue of surrounding townships. If they do nothing, then the deer will immigrate back into East Goshen, so this would have to be an ongoing program. Joe feels that if the BOS is not going to support a hunt under any circumstances, then the DMC needs to know that. He feels the township doesn't own enough of the open space to make an impact, so private landowners will have to be involved. Jim commented that beside Lyme Disease, traffic accidents are another area that is defensible. You can put up signs, etc., to reduce the number of accidents, which doesn't get into the controversy of hunting.

Public Comment:

Bob Phiel – Can deer be sterilized at the same time they are feeding? Bob is a hunter and suggested talking to the Game Commission. Jim said the Game Commission has not approved oral contraception products for deer yet.

John Schorn – Based on the information the DMC has, how much time do they need to present options for a hunting program? Jim stated the open question is public vs private land. He feels a proposed program can be prepared by the end of the year.

Linda Polishuk – She feels any amount of deer killed is worthwhile because this will be an ongoing program.

Al Zuccarello – One benefit to doing a hunt is that the surrounding townships may take on a similar program. The DMC determined that there is a problem. If the BOS agrees, maybe it could be incumbent on the Board to write a strong letter in the Township newsletter and point out various options including hunting and wait for response from the residents.

Jane Fava – We can't look at this problem as if it is a business, Environmental issues are not controllable. We can't control Nature – we can only do the best we can. The last survey showed that residents are open to doing things in a positive, environmental way. Someone has to stand up and say "I'm going to do this." If they see a result then others will do it too. It won't get better by doing nothing. Come at the problem from every direction. It's very important to take a stand.

Kathryn Yahraes – So much of the damage is done in neighborhoods that don't have enough open space to have a hunt, so they haven't responded, or have a tendency to support no hunting. She suggests that, after the DMC puts together a plan, they should have get together's in the neighborhoods to educate the residents and get their input.

Jane Fava – A study was done in Gettysburg National Park. This park was founded under a separate act of congress and does not allow hunting in the park. They studied the deer and found that the deer come into the park when hunting season starts and leave when it's over.

Marty commented that no one at this meeting is against a hunt.

Al Zuccarello suggested that the Board view the deer video. It has lots of good information.

It was the consensus of the Board that the DMC should develop the skeleton of a program that would allow hunting on Township owned land. The Board could then decide whether to allow hunting on Township land, allow hunting on Township land with an opt out provision, or not allow hunting on Township land.

Target date – Jim said the DMC will meet 2 times/month to be done by year end.

E. Applebrook Golf Outings – Marty stated that the 2004 memo from Rick is the operable document. Hank's offer was:

- Keep the 3rd week in September (he wanted us to take the 1st week because he needs the 3rd week to do fall maintenance on the greens)
- Give up 2 of the 4 days
- Allow 3 guests
- Freeze rates for 3 years
- Hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch

The Board discussed various options. It was the consensus of the Board that Joe and Don would meet with Hank to see if he would accept the following:

- Keep the 4 days
- Keep the 3rd Tuesday in September
- Allow 3 guests
- Freeze rates for 3 years (if possible)
- No lunch

F. Visiting Nurses – Rick said current budget allocation is \$8,200. It was the consensus of the Board to make the allocation to them at this time.

G. Westtown Trail – Rick reported there is nothing specific in the Township Comprehensive Plan about trails. Board agreed to tell them we are not interested since there is no place to connect.

H. Bills – Marty moved to graciously accept the receipts and approve the expenditures pending the Board's review. Thom seconded. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

The workshop meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. There will be a budget meeting on October 30, 2007. The next formal meeting will be Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary