

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP  
1580 PAOLI PIKE  
January 22, 2008 – 7:00pm**

**Present:** Chairman Marty Shane, Vice-Chairman Carmen Battavio, Joe McDonough, Don McConathy and Thom Clapper. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Zoning Officer Mark Gordon, Jim McRee (Planning Commission & DMC), Al Zuccarello and Linda Polishuk (DMC), Jane Fava and Walter Wujcik (Conservancy Board & DMC), Bob Huebner (Park & Rec and DMC), Senya Isayeff (Planning Commission), and Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met with Township Solicitor Jeff Sommer in Executive Session from 6:00pm-7:05pm to discuss a legal matter.

**WORKSHOP**

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Marty called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Marty noted that although this was a public meeting, the primary purpose of the meeting would be to serve as a discussion time among the Supervisors.

**Deer Management Program**

Marty thanked the DMC for their hard work developing a deer management program from scratch. Marty said that he wanted to use the evening to get resolution on as many items in the DMC recommendations as possible. He noted that the Board planned to vote on the recommendations at the next public meeting on February 5. Marty requested the Board ask the DMC members any questions they might have about the recommendations.

Marty stated that the Board as a whole is in favor of the DMC's recommendation to implement an educational program for residents. The Board is also in favor of the Township working to keep large property owners informed of hunting options available to them, because the more large property owners that participate, the greater the impact will be. Don said he contacted two of the DMC-recommended hunting groups to hunt 15 acres (his property and that of 2 neighbors), and was disappointed that neither group came out to hunt, and both failed to follow up with him. He observed that any hunting group the Township plans to recommend or be associated with must do a better job than that.

Joe said he thinks the Township needs the DMC to stay active, as the deer issue requires a group devoted to it on an ongoing basis. Marty agreed. Don said the Township may need to hire a part-time staff person to concentrate on this issue. Marty said the Board will have to make that decision down the road.

*Public Comment:* DMC member Linda Polishuk suggested the Township invite the large property owners to a meeting with the QDMA, who could answer any questions they might have.

Regarding the education program, Marty noted it will address the topics of how residents can protect their properties from deer, and how to avoid automobile accidents with deer. He said the program with the large property owners was still undefined.

DMC Chairman Jim McRee said the DMC could make a recommendation regarding the addition of a Township employee to handle deer issues, but they would need to know the parameters of the request – was the Board looking for a FT person or PT, or for a temp? Did they wish to keep a volunteer committee? What budget would be allocated to this effort?

Joe noted that the DMC was charged with two tasks: 1) herd management, and 2) public education, especially concerning Lyme disease. Joe said that decisions about the possible staff person fall in the “herd management” category.

Thom noted that the discussion seemed to be going off topic, as the agenda stated the meeting time would be used to discuss “Deer Hunting on Township-Owned Land.” Marty assured Thom that part was coming.

Regarding bait stations, Marty suggested the Township conduct a pilot program by placing 2 stations on Township property to see how they work out. Carmen said he preferred to implement the bait stations all over Township property, and not start with a small pilot program. Joe said he wants the DMC to make a recommendation on how to implement the bait stations, complete with cost estimates and a way to evaluate and tabulate their success rate in killing deer ticks. It was pointed out that it would be difficult if not impossible to tabulate the results. Carmen said it should be enough to assume that if the corn is eaten from the bait stations, the deer are getting coated with the tickicide and therefore deer ticks are being killed. Joe asked how other animals are prevented from eating the corn. Jim McRee said the stations do not prevent other animals from eating the corn. Marty told Jim that to the extent possible, it would be good for the DMC to figure out a way to evaluate the results of the bait stations on the deer tick population.

Jim McRee said the bait stations will have to be ordered in February if they are to be used this year, so it would be helpful if the Board could decide on how many they wanted. In addition, he said the DMC would like to put an article in the upcoming spring newsletter about the bait stations. The article submission deadline date is in February. The Board came to a consensus to order 10 bait stations for use on Township property this year, though Thom would prefer to start with just 2 stations.

Jim McRee said tick tubes are also a good idea as they are effective at killing deer ticks on a smaller scale than the bait stations. Thus they are perfect for use by individual residents around their properties. Jim suggested the Township could buy the tubes in bulk and resell them to interested residents. The profit earned from the resale could be applied toward the Township’s deer management efforts. A case of tubes costs approximately \$800. The Supervisors agreed that Jim should go ahead and order a case. More can be reordered if there proves to be a demand.

Regarding hunting, Marty said he learned from the QDMA film that the only effective way to reduce a herd is to use sharpshooters. Bow hunting is effective as a way to maintain herd size after it has been sufficiently reduced through sharpshooting. Marty suggested the DMC try again to contact the surrounding municipalities about partnering in a sharpshooting program. Thom said he could also bring it up again at the next COG meeting.

Thom complimented the DMC on doing such a nice job with their proposal. He recommended the Board accept the DMC recommendations of 12/31/07.

Don said he did some independent research that showed the DMC's recommendation to hunt only on Township open space -- if implemented -- will effectively have limited impact on the herd size. Jim pointed out that any reduction in deer population will mean there is less opportunity for someone to be in an automobile accident involving a deer.

Thom said the Township cannot rely on outside groups to do a hunt. He would prefer to use a dedicated team of East Goshen hunters, like the team that was used in the initial pilot program two years ago. Don disagreed, and said using professionals is the way to go.

Carmen said some of the neighborhoods have already informed the Township they want to opt out of any Township-run hunting program. Carmen said he personally feels that having hunters out 6 days per week from dawn to dusk in open space is unacceptable. He suggested having a pilot program in the developments that have expressed interest in hunting, to see what kind of results are obtained. By limiting the hunt in this manner, it might be easier to get hunting groups to take on the job. Thom noted that the Township had a successful pilot program doing just that, two years ago. He suggested it might be helpful to first do a better job of educating the residents that the hunters would do the job safely, and then maybe more neighborhoods would want to get involved.

Joe said he was willing to concede that one dead deer was better than no dead deer; however he was not willing to approve a hunt if the majority of residents are still opposed to it after the educational program and after receiving the 1,000-ft notification letter.

Don said sending out 1,000-ft letters would be too much. Joe suggested the letters be sent only to "adjacent" property owners. Thom said it's the Board's responsibility to make a decision whether to hunt or not, not the residents. Joe disagreed and said the Board needs to represent the wishes of the residents.

Don said he mostly agreed with Carmen and Joe but believes anything done in the way of hunting must generate meaningful results to be worthwhile. Having a very limited hunt may not be worthwhile.

Marty said the Board must decide how far away a resident can live from an open space and still get a "vote" in the matter. The Board must also decide whether or not "anything is better than nothing." Marty noted there has been no groundswell of feedback from residents one way or another regarding the whole hunting issue. There have been a few very vocal residents who have made their feelings known, but the majority of residents have not been heard from. Marty said

he agrees with Joe at this point that “something is better than nothing,” and the hunt will have to be limited to those neighborhoods that want it. Thom said he knows Marty wants to take a Township-wide survey of residents on this matter, and warned that surveys merely reflect feelings, not facts or logic.

*Public Comment:* Al Zuccarello of the DMC said a resident is more likely to have an automobile accident with a deer than be injured in a bow-hunting accident.

Marty recapped the Board’s position based on the discussion thus far:

The consensus was to 1) implement the DMC’s recommendations for an education program for residents, and 2) to have a limited deer hunt in those neighborhoods that want it. Thom said he did not share the feelings of the Board with regard to 2) as he feels the hunt should be done on a Township-wide basis.

*Public Comment:* Linda Polishuk of the DMC said the Board should ask more residents than just the property owners adjacent to the open spaces whether or not they want a hunt. She then said the Board should make the decisions that are best for the Township, even if the decision will be unpopular. Ms. Polishuk also said that by allowing the YMCA to build their new facility on Airport Road, 15 acres of habitat was taken away, making the deer problem in the Township that much worse.

*Public Comment:* Dan Callahan of Wylpen Farms said the Board is agonizing and making this into a major issue when it need not be. The Board should make a decision and be done with it. He suggested the most expedient method to reduce the deer would be to bait them, have a roundup, and kill them. He pointed out that the Board will upset some of the residents no matter what they do. Mark Gordon told Mr. Callahan it’s illegal to bait deer on public property.

*Public Comment:* John Schorn said the Board should make the decision and not poll the residents. A hunt club should be hired as they are safety-conscious professionals and carry insurance in case of accidents.

Marty noted that some residents want a very aggressive program, some residents want no program, and some are in the middle. He suggested the DMC develop a education program for residents in line with their recommendations.

The Board discussed the four neighborhoods that have expressed interest in having a hunt: Bow Tree, Supplee Valley, Mill Creek and Grand Oak. Don wondered what would happen if the majority of the residents polled in each neighborhood said “no” to a hunt. Carmen established that at least one neighborhood was a sure thing – he queried Linda Polishuk, who said that the majority of Grand Oak residents are definitely in favor of a hunt.

Marty reiterated that the consensus of the Board is to have a hunt in the neighborhoods that want to participate.

Joe said he accepted the DMC’s proposals, and that he was okay with sending out 1,000-ft letters. Carmen and Don both agreed with Joe’s comments.

The Board agreed to have the DMC write an educational article for the spring newsletter. They also agreed that a simple majority (51%+) of the residents in a development living within 1,000 ft of an open space must express opposition to a hunt for there to be no hunt held there.

*Public Comment:* Senya Isayeff of the Planning Commission said that now is the optimum time for hunting, while the kids are at school during the day and indoors when they get home. It was pointed out to Senya that deer season is basically over. Senya said the Game Commission allows that human life is more valuable than a deer's life, and as this is a health and welfare issue, they might be willing to allow a hunt outside of the season.

*Public Comment:* Dan Callahan of Wylpen Farms said that wherever the bait stations are put, they will attract deer. He asked how the Township will determine placement of the stations. Jim McRee said the DMC was told by the experts that the corn in the bait stations will only attract deer that were in that vicinity to begin with – the stations don't draw deer from outside their normal areas.

**Falcone, 909 Gates Drive, Lot Line Change Plan**

Thom moved to approve and execute the plan for the lot line change for Falcone at 909 Gates Drive. Joe seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

**Applebrook Golf Days**

The Board reviewed the revisions made by Hank Belber to the December 27 letter agreement, and agreed to accept Mr. Belber's changes. Since Mr. Belber has already signed the document, no further action is necessary on this matter.

**Bills**

Current invoices were reviewed.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for January 22, 2008:

	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 0.00	
Earned Income Tax	\$ 46,332.39	
EMS TAX	\$ 0.00	Accounts Payable \$ 162,166.06
Transfer Tax	\$ 43,570.71	Debt Service \$ 0.00
Codes, Park & Rec, Etc.	\$ 10,871.94	Payroll \$ 40,000.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 100,775.04</b>	<b>Total Expenditures \$ 202,166.06</b>
Zoning Hearing Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
State Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,272.86
Transportation Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Sewer Operating	\$ 155,378.83	\$ 134,980.23
Refuse	\$ 92,071.78	\$ 6,058.26
Capital Projects	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Joe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and the receipts and to approve the expenditures reviewed during the workshop. Don seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting with Rep. Barbara McIlvaine-Smith**

The Board would like to meet with Rep. McIlvaine-Smith for a working lunch at the Township building. Rick will try to set something up for February 7.

**Joint Project with West Goshen for Boot Road**

Joe suggested that Marty speak with West Goshen's Chairman. In the meantime, Thom will look into the possibility of applying for state grant money, and Joe will look into the possibility of partnering with PennDOT on this project.

**Rep. Joe Sestak**

Marty and Carmen are planning to attend Rep. Sestak's open house in Media Borough on Sunday, January 27.

**Pending Actions List**

The Supervisors reviewed and edited the "to do" list compiled by Don, and prioritized the tasks according to their urgency. Don will update the document and distribute new copies.

**Public Hour – Hearing of Residents – Receipt of Petitions**

There was no public comment at this time.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 10:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings  
Recording Secretary