

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING
January 25, 2014
Final Approved Minutes

The East Goshen Township Board of Supervisors and members of the ABCs met on Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 9:00 am at the East Goshen Township Building for the Annual Planning Meeting. Those in attendance were:

Board of Supervisors

Senya Isayeff
Janet Emanuel
E Martin Shane

Conservancy Board

Sandra Snyder, Chairman
Erich Meyer
Walter Wujcik
Ginnie Newlin

Historical Commission

Chris Reardon, Chairman
Judy Schafer
Sue Ciorletti
Monica Close
Dolores Higgins

Township Staff

Rick Smith, Township Manager
Jason Lang, Director of Recreation
Mark Gordon, Zoning Officer
Jon Altshul, Township CFO
Mark Miller, Director of Public Works

Municipal Authority

Dana Pizarro, Vice Chairman

Planning Commission

Adam Knox
Al Zuccarello

Commerce Commission

Al Zuccarello, Chairman
John Stipe

Park & Recreation Commission

Heidi Karpa, Chairman
Ann Marie Fletcher-Moore
Betsy Williams
Joe Zulli

The meeting started at 9:00 am. Al Zuccarello led the Pledge of Allegiance. Senya asked for a moment of silence to remember our troops and Art Polishuk, who was a township resident active for many years on several Boards and passed away in December.

Conservancy Board

Sandra Snyder spoke about the many tasks that Mark Miller and the Public Works Department have done for the Conservancy Board. They always do a great job and it saves the Board and Township money.

Stream impairment is a new and very important goal since the Ridley Creek has been designated as impaired by the DEP.

Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day – In the past, Kathryn and Jack Yahraes have coordinated this very successful cleanup day. Last year Sandy approached them about the Conservancy Board being more involved. They would like to see it become a township committee or a responsibility of the Conservancy Board.

Rain Barrel – The Conservancy Board expects to complete this project this year. A location has been selected to install the rain barrel at the township building.

Recycling – The Board has received complaints that the recycle bins are too small and the stickers for large trash cans do not stay on the cans. The Conservancy Board will investigate alternatives. Also, the Board wants to put more trash and recycling cans in the parks and open space.

Signs – There will be a new “Welcome to East Goshen” sign installed on Paoli Pike at Line Road. Also, a new sign will be installed on Line Road describing the new Clymers Woods.

Historical Commission

Chris Reardon presented the Historical Commission's accomplishments for 2013 and goals for 2014.

Accomplishments

1. A very successful Living History Day Event was held in June.
2. They worked with Chester County and other local townships to complete the stated funded "Battle of the Clouds" project. The meeting room at the Blacksmith Shop has new maps on the walls about this battle. Later this year there will be an opportunity for the residents to see the video.
3. The inventory of items at the Blacksmith Shop and Plank House has been completed.
4. The owners of two historic resources requested removal from the Township Historic Inventory list. Two hearings were held and for the first time, houses were removed from the list.

Goals for 2014

1. Begin a comprehensive review of all properties on the Historic Inventory List to determine which ones meet all the criteria to be on the list.
2. County Events – Each year there are many historic events held throughout Chester County. Chris will work on a Facebook page to link to the Township website to make this list of events available to everyone.
3. Reevaluate events at the Historic Area. The HC will hold a few, smaller events instead of being open every Saturday all summer. They hope to draw greater attendance and make better use of volunteer hours.
4. The Plank House will be redecorated to reflect 1800 and what the township looked like at that time.

Comments: Ginnie Newlin suggested that the Historical Commission send letters to everyone on the Historic list to let them know that they are considered an historic resource.

Municipal Authority

Dana Pizarro presented the Municipal Authority's accomplishments for 2013 and goals for 2014.

Accomplishments for 2013:

1. Several projects closing pumping stations were done on time and on budget.
 - a. Hershey Mill Pump Station was closed in July.
 - b. The Reserve Pump Station elimination is completed.
 - c. Marydell Pump Station had a lot of conflict with PECO and Sunoco. Mark Miller and Public Works did a great job.

Comments: Dana complimented Mark Miller and Public Works on the great job they do checking and repairing the township infrastructure.

Goals for 2014:

1. Develop a plan for the Reservoir Road Pump Station to go to Ridley Creek instead of West Goshen.
2. Smoke testing will be done this year. It is used to detect extraneous flows and illegal connections to the sewer system.

Comments: Ginnie asked if they are addressing the Ridley Creek impairment. Dana responded that the plant met all required permits last year.

Rick explained that DEP had to assess all streams. They used a quick method and Ridley Creek was okay. They just did a new assessment which was more detailed and the Ridley Creek is impaired due to storm water runoff. The Township will try to do its own testing on sediment and send the results to DEP.

Jon Altshul reported that the Municipal Authority borrowed \$2.5 million and the township received an excellent credit rating of AAA.

Marty explained what the Municipal Authority does.

Park and Recreation

Heidi Karpa introduced Jason Lang, Director of Park and Recreation. She explained how the Park Commission works closely with Mark Miller and Public Works too.

Accomplishments for 2013:

1. The Farmers Market Committee consisting of Heidi, Ann Marie Fletcher-Moore and John Jam worked very hard to rebuild the market. They had 500+ people come to the market each week, they had 2 articles in the business section of the Daily Local, and the local radio station did some broadcasts from the park. Heidi thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support in giving the Market the funds needed for advertising.

2. Community Day – This year was the first time ever that the Park Commission sold products at Community Day to raise funds. After expenses they made \$800.

Goals for 2014:

1. Complete the amphitheater
2. Install a pedestrian walk from Line Road to the park
3. Make improvements to the Tot Lot.
4. Evaluate the trees in the parks for safety

Jason explained that he has a 100-day plan. He spends a lot of time at the park and everyone he meets loves East Goshen and the services that they receive as residents. He will look at all of the events/programs to see how to get more sponsors and volunteers.

The Summer Camp will not change. He has been a YMCA camp counselor since he was 16 and those camps do not compare to what Frank developed here in East Goshen. It is very special. Jason will investigate expanding the things that are offered at the camp.

Comments: Joe Zulli recognized Heidi, Ann Marie and John for the many volunteer hours and all the effort they put into bringing the Farmers Market to the success that it is. Marty agreed and knows that the Farmers Market is an asset to East Goshen. The Board of Supervisors appreciates all that those 3 did and the support they received from the Park Commission.

Planning Commission

Adam Knox reported the **accomplishments for 2013.** It was a busier year than they thought it would be since East Goshen is pretty much built out. Some of the plans they reviewed were:

1. New Kent Apartments – 1 new building
2. Goshen Meadows Apartments – 5 new buildings
3. Manley Road subdivision
4. Colonial Lane subdivision
5. Mars Drinks

Goals for 2014:

1. Review the solar/wind ordinance
2. Complete the Comprehensive Plan Update
3. Complete the Zoning Ordinance review and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Comments: Mark Gordon commented that he hears from developers and residents that they like to work with East Goshen. Adam complimented Mark Gordon on all the work that he does for the Planning Commission.

Commerce Commission

Al Zuccarello presented the **accomplishments for 2013:**

1. Developed a retail business directory on the Township website. It is categorized and contains all commercial retailers and service companies in East Goshen.
2. Interviewed business owners and discovered that the landlord controls the business.
3. Held forums for the Commercial and Business Park owners. They are planning to have at least 1 forum each year.
4. Installed a walking and bike path in Goshen Corporate Park and Goshen Corporate Park West. Al thanked Public Works for this.

Comments: CTDI did not leave East Goshen. They purchased another building in the Goshen Corporate Park so that business park is 100% occupied.

5. Formed a Work Force Subcommittee. Some of the businesses feel they can expand their business if they can hire especially skilled employees. The committee will find out where training for these positions is being done and if needed, see if the training can be done in a more local facility.

Goals for 2014:

1. Continue to work on the Comp Plan Update.
2. Continue to work with the landlords and businesses.
3. Make contact with Bellingham and Wellington.

Comments: Marty spoke about East Goshen compared to Westtown and Thornbury when it comes to commercial and retail businesses. He explained that it was Senya's idea to start the Commerce Commission since Business and Industry are important to our tax base.

2017 Event

Senya announced that there will be a monumental event in 2017 to celebrate the establishment of East and West Goshen. He will be asking residents to volunteer to be on this committee.

Closing Comments:

Senya Isayeff pointed out that a Township is the form of government closest to the people. He spoke about property values and how the Board of Supervisors and the ABCs are following the mantra – "Preserving the Past, Serving the Present, and Protecting the Future". At the current tax rate in East Goshen, the average taxpayer pays about \$250/year. He mentioned the assets and services that East Goshen provides. He explained that at the end of the year the Township budget has a surplus, which is the amount remaining after all current and known future expenses are considered.

Marty Shane announced that he will be the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2014. He spoke to the ABC volunteers and told them how important their work and recommendations are to the Board of Supervisors. The BOS is very appreciative of the hours of time they volunteer. He thanked Rick and Jon for their help. He gave special thanks to Mark Miller and Public Works. Mark always looks for ways to do what needs to be done for less cost. He also thanked the Township employees. This year the BOS recognized all that the staff did to cut costs and be more efficient by giving the Township employees a bonus. He mentioned that from 1968 to 2004 there was no township tax. Since 2004, the tax that was implemented has not been increased.

Marty mentioned the following projects for 2014:

1. Start planning for the 2017 event – need lots of volunteers.
2. Will have the permit to start construction on the dam.
3. Continuing the investigation of the possibility of a merger of the West Goshen Police Dept. and WEGO.
4. Install a geothermal system at the Township Building.
5. Continue work on the Comp Plan update.
6. Implement a new system for the ABCs to report the progress on their 2014 goals. The BOS will set 3-5 most important goals for each ABC. Those goals will be included on the monthly meeting agenda. The comments in the minutes for those items will be put into a quarterly report for the BOS to review.

Marty thanked everyone for coming. The meeting ended at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary