

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
July 1 2014 – 7:00pm**

Present: Chairman Marty Shane, Supervisor Carmen Battavio, and Janet Emanuel. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, CFO Jon Altshul, Solicitor Kristin Camp, Esq., Zoning Officer Mark Gordon and Conservancy Board member Erich Meyer. Vice Chairman Senya D. Isayeff and Supervisor Chuck Proctor were not present.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Marty called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and asked Leo Sinclair to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Marty called for a moment of silence to honor the troops and all those in uniform who keep us safe.

Recording of Meeting

Resident Leo Sinclair, 217 Lochwood Lane, was recording the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Marty announced that the Board met in Executive Session at 9:30pm following the June 17th meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Janet announced that the Comp Plan Task Force met on June 24th and is in the process of making edits to a number of chapters. She indicated that the task force hopes to present the report to the Board for adoption in July 2015.

Marty announced that Pete Keegan was promoted to Sergeant, and Tim Riley was promoted to a full-time Officer for WEGO. The promotion ceremony was well attended.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Resident Ginny Newlin, 299 Devon Lane, thanked everyone who came to the recent poetry reading at East Goshen Park and the Board for its support of the event.

Resident Pauline H. Johnson, 1608 Highland Ave., addressed the Board regarding the unkempt property adjacent to her house. Rick indicated that he had spoken to her lawyer and had explained to him that the Township Code only requires that diseased trees be removed, which wasn't the issue here. Ms. Johnson said there was poison ivy all over the property. Carmen asked Mark if there was anything in the Township Code that addresses the removal of poison ivy. Mark said that the Township Code requires property owners to remove poison ivy, but that wooded areas, such as around the neighbors' property, are exempt.

Hearing to Consider and/or Adopt an Ordinance Amending Chapter 225 of Township Code Titled “Vehicles and Traffic” to Lower the Speed Limit on Paoli Pike Between Line Road and North Chester Road to 35 mph

Marty introduced the hearing to adopt the 35 mph speed limit between Line Road and North Chester Road. Carmen moved to amend Chapter 225 as described by the Township Solicitor. Janet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A court reporter was present and will provide a complete transcript of the proceeding.

Consideration of Deer Committee’s Recommendation to Eliminate Holiday Black-out Dates on Deer Hunting Schedules

Jim McCree, Chairman of the Deer Committee, explained that due to reduced harvests recently, the Deer Committee was recommending the elimination of the deer hunting black-out dates during Thanksgiving weekend and the week prior to Christmas, in order to encourage more hunting. He noted that no children are ever spotted in the open space during this time and that these dates are likely to be popular with deer hunters.

Carmen expressed concern about the eliminating the black-out dates, as these were a very important safety precaution that were included at the urging of many residents when the deer program was created, and that eliminating the black-out dates could be seen as the Board going back on its promise.

Janet expressed concern about children playing in the open space and thinks the days should remain blacked out.

Resident Joe Buonanno, 1606 Herron Lane, expressed concern that hunters were killing young deer.

Resident Dave Kovach, 1620 Eldridge Drive and a member of Keystone Archers, disputed Mr. Buonanno’s claim that young deer had been killed. He also noted that he rarely observes children playing in open space during the black out periods, when it is typically very cold.

Resident Leo Sinclair, 217 Lochwood Lane, noted that that the hunters already have 80 days to hunt, and nine more days would not make much of a difference. He expressed concern about the safety of residents, specifically children, if the black-out dates were lifted.

Marty tabled the issue until all five board members could be present.

Pedestrian Crossing and Fence Update

Rick Smith reported that the 35 mph speed limit signs would be in place on Paoli Pike between Line Road and North Chester Road tomorrow morning. He indicated that the first phase of the pedestrian improvements, including striping and signage, would be completed later this year at a cost of approximately \$2,000, while the new blinking traffic

light would probably be installed in early 2015, as we won't hear back from PennDOT about whether we received an ARLE grant until January.

Rick is also recommending that a post and rail fence be installed on both sides of Paoli Pike. About 1,500 feet would be needed on each side for a total of 3,000 feet. The cost would be about \$25,000.

Resident Don McConathy, 337 Wyllpen Dr. asked if the traffic signal at the west entrance of the park has a push button, as the proposed signal at the east entrance would. Rick responded that there is currently no push button at the west entrance and that we would need to work with PennDOT in order to change that.

Resident Katherine Yahraes, 911 Vista Drive, suggested that the Township inform residents of the change to the speed limit through Constant Contact and the newsletter.

Consider Tree Pruning and/or Removal Bid Results

Rick announced that we received three bids for tree pruning and removal. The lowest bid was \$25,680 from Eden's Tree Service.

Carmen moved to award the contract for tree pruning and removal to Eden's Tree Service. Janet seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Any Other Matter

Rick noted that the Goshen Fire Company had recently been called to a resident's property regarding an open burn. He asked the Board whether it would like to consider amending the Township Code to allow larger properties to have open burns. He suggested that if the Board wants to consider an amendment, that open burns be only allowed on parcels 4 acres or larger and that other safety precautions be taken.

Carmen suggested that those safety precautions include a \$75 permit fee, proper advanced notice to both the Township and the Fire Company, the burn occur away from property lines, and restrict burning materials that cause excessive smoke or debris. Janet expressed concern about smoke, specifically the burning of poison ivy, which can be very dangerous for those susceptible to it.

Marty suggested that Rick and Mark Gordon research other municipalities' open burning ordinances and report back to the Board. He also indicated that the Board should table the issue until all five members are present.

Marty next brought up neighbors' complaints about the noise at The Color Run on June 28. He suggested we ask Jason Lang, Director of Parks and Recreation, to discuss this matter with the Parks & Recreation Board and come back with recommendations.

Ms. Yahraes recommended that speakers at any public event should be facing Paoli Pike so as not to amplify into the adjacent residential areas. She stressed that because many event organizers are not from the Township, it is important that the Township clearly explain to them what the park ordinance says.

Marty stated that all applicants should get a copy of the park ordinance.

Mark Gordon noted that clarity on this issue is particularly important with the opening of the new amphitheater.

Review of Minutes and Corrected

The Board received the draft minutes of June 17th. Marty stated that the minutes would stand approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report & Expenditure Register Report

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report and the current invoices. Carmen moved to accept and approve the Treasurer's Report and the Expenditure Register Report as recommended by the Treasurer, to accept the receipts and to authorize payment of the invoices just reviewed. Janet seconded the motion. The motion was approved 3-0.

Action List

Comp Plan—the task force reviewed chapters 1,3,4,5, and 6 and the schedule has been revised to a July 2015 adoption date.

Open Space Plan—goals and objectives were approved by the committee on May 15. Anne Toole is currently working on a final draft of the plan

Hershey Mill Dam—revised plans were sent to DEP on June 11.

Executive Session

Marty announced that the Board would meet in Executive Session immediately following the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.