

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
MARCH 31, 2015—7:00 pm
Final Minutes**

Present: Chairman Marty Shane, Vice-Chairman Senya D. Isayeff, and Supervisors Chuck Proctor, and Janet Emanuel, Township Manager Rick Smith, Zoning Officer Mark Gordon, and Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Lang

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Marty called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Marty called for a moment of silence to send love, support, and hope to the troops, all those in uniform, their families, and to honor those who have given their lives.

Recording of Meeting

No one indicated that they would be recording the meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

Chairman's Report

Marty announced that the Board would be interviewing four finalists for the Paoli Pike Trail Feasibility Study. Each finalist would be given fifteen minutes for a presentation, and fifteen minutes for Q&A.

JMT

Neil Beach, P.E., Senior Associate, JMT, introduced himself and explained that he would like to give the board information about JMT and his team. He introduced *Andrew Mears, RLA, Senior Associate, JMT*, and explained that Ann Toole, from Toole Recreation Planning, would be a part of the team as well.

Mr. Mears explained that JMT is a multi-discipline engineering firm that is capable of working from a feasibility study through to construction and inspection. Their slogan "One JMT" emphasizes their multi-disciplinary approach.

Mr. Mears stated that they have worked on many types of trails in multiple states and their work includes everything from small to large trails, in urban and suburban areas. A question they always ask of clients is, "What is the outcome?" They want to know the ideal situation foreseen by the client.

Mr. Beach showed the Board some of the projects they have worked on, and noted that JMT is currently managing 20+ projects. Notably, they provide Delaware Valley

Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) with Project Management services. These projects have allowed them exposure to a wide variety of issues.

Mr. Beach sees the Paoli Pike Corridor as connecting two points and noted that they would be responsible for moving forward from that conclusion. He also sees the Paoli Pike Trail as providing opportunities for the community.

Mr. Beach explained that they see the trail as a means to link and utilize existing facilities. He knows that roadway crossings, environmental constraints, and land conservation will be important to the plan. They see a possibility for on-road segments of the trail, and have thought about the legal feasibility of rights-of-way and easements.

Mr. Beach said communication and collaboration with a project team as critical. He foresees the project team consisting of JMT, the Board of Supervisors, and the public. If chosen, they would plan to hold a Multimodal Planning Corridor Workshop.

Mr. Beach emphasized the importance of review agencies, and noted their relationships with PennDOT and DVRPC. He explained their approach as constraints and solutions, for example, will we need an on-road or off-road approach? He added that there are alignment and environmental constraints with the Paoli Pike project.

Mr. Mears asked the Board about the look they would like for the Paoli Pike Trail. Marty informed them that the trail will go from Airport Road to Line Road. Janet added that we are currently updating our Comprehensive Plan, and hope to include a Town Center, and a Paoli Pike Promenade from Boot Road to Route 352. Marty noted that the trail should be practical, safe, and cost-effective.

Senya asked if JMT would put part of the trail on the road, and Mr. Beach replied that yes, this may be an option. Senya requested an explanation of the term “road diet,” and Mr. Beach explained that travel lane widths are narrowed to allow for the on-road portion of the trail.

Marty asked how many projects they were currently working on, and if they would have the resources to devote to the Paoli Pike project. Mr. Beach answered that they have several projects winding down, and that they have a full-service firm behind them, including 900+ professionals. He emphasized, though, that he and Mr. Mears will always be the ones representing the firm. Mr. Mears added that they would be extremely busy in April and May.

Marty asked if they would be able to make the deadline and Mr. Mears replied yes.

Marty asked if they have completed any projects with issues similar to the ones faced by the Paoli Pike project. Mr. Beach answered that the N. Cobbs Creek project is similar, as well as the project in Centerville, DE.

Marty asked what percentage of JMT's Master Plans are followed through with engineering and construction. Mr. Beach emphasized that JMT is a full-service firm, and ideally, they prefer to take a project from design to planning to construction.

Marty asked about grants, and if JMT's relationship with DVRPC would give East Goshen an advantage. Mr. Beach replied that no, their relationship with DVRPC does not give East Goshen an advantage in receiving a grant, however, they do know what DVRPC is looking for in terms of projects to support. Senya, asked, on the other hand, will the relationship work against us, and Mr. Beach said no.

Marty noted that we do not have an abundance of trails in East Goshen, and we have met resistance in the past, and asked how JMT would stimulate community interest. Mr. Mears responded that they use outreach and education, including a kick-off meeting to garner community interest. They also see the website, publications, and public meetings as good places to advertise design plans. Mr. Beach added that attending community events is also a good way to share the project with the community. They like to emphasize the economic benefit of having trails.

Marty asked whether landscaping or engineering drives the project. Mr. Mears responded that it is a combination of the two.

Michael Broennle, 1641 Hunter Circle, said that he has ridden many trails, and in order for this trail to be feasible it needs to be an off-road trail. He added that if portions of the trail must be on-road, there needs to be a barrier.

Chuck asked about the appendix in the proposal, where he found a sub-contract agreement. Mr. Beach said that this is not a sub-contract. Chuck also asked about Brawner, because it reads as if Brawner is a third party. Mr. Mears said that JMT will develop a contract specific to East Goshen if chosen for the project.

McMahon

Natasha Manbeck, P. E., AICP, McMahon, explained that she would be the Project Manager for the Paoli Pike project. She shared McMahon's qualifications and excitement for the project and introduced a team that included members from McMahon, and Glackin Thomas Panzak.

Ms. Manbeck noted the importance of the planning process, scheduled budget, and community involvement. She has twelve years of experience with McMahon, and is familiar with the many funding programs available.

Ms. Manbeck explained the unique qualifications of her team. She emphasized their knowledge and experience with the Paoli Pike Corridor, and with the design standards and requirements of Penn DOT. She noted that McMahon is able to take a project from the planning stages through implementation, and engage key people in the process.

Ms. Manbeck sees this project as the spine of the Paoli Pike Corridor, providing a safe connection from parks, to schools, to the town center, and more. She noted that she was familiar with Tom Comitta and his work on the Comprehensive Plan, and emphasized the importance of section of the trail from Boot Road to North Chester Road, known in the Comp Plan as the Paoli Pike Promenade.

Ms. Manbeck studied both sides of Paoli Pike, and noted that there were many benefits for locating the trail on the south side, there are also overhead utilities on the south side. She pointed out driveways, businesses, stream crossings, intersections, and possible links to residential areas.

Ms. Manbeck said that her team is familiar with Penn DOT requirements. They also have experience with road design requirements, and traffic calming strategies.

As for the implementation of the project, Ms. Manbeck explained that project phasing was important. She added that they have a good track record for obtaining grants.

In terms of community engagement, Ms. Manbeck finds it important to listen and build consensus. Her team will provide renderings for the community to see what the trail will look like. She noted their proposal included an alternative schedule ending in December that allowed for more public input. Marty noted that it would be important to be ready for grant application deadlines.

Marty asked Ms. Manbeck how many projects they are working on, and if they would be too busy to complete our project on time. Ms. Manbeck responded that they have two projects starting in May, including work on the US 30 project, but that they have the capacity, ability, and time to complete our project. Marty said that the US 30 project is a big project, and asked if there was any doubt as to whether they could complete our project. Ms. Manbeck emphasized that she had no doubt.

Marty asked if McMahan worked on any other projects similar to the Paoli Pike Trail project. Ms. Manbeck replied that they had worked on three similar projects: The E. Central Corridor in Paoli, a project in Upper Uwchlan, and the West Vincent multi modal trail. She noted their experience with retro-fitting a trail into an existing framework.

John Yurick, P.E., PTOE, PTP, Task Lead, McMahan, noted that on the map he recognizes that the Paoli Pike Corridor has many different types of issues that they are capable of addressing.

Jamie Kouch, P.E., Task Lead, McMahan, added that they have experience with Penn DOT.

Marty asked if we move forward with McMahan, would they be able to continue with engineering and construction. Ms. Manbeck answered that they could do it either way, but if they were retained for design and construction, the consistency would benefit all involved.

Marty asked how McMahon would involve the community in the project. Ms. Manbeck replied that they would utilize traditional public meetings, create online community engagement, distribute flyers, use reverse 911 for phone messages, and post messages on our LED sign boards. Mr. Yurick added that in one project they had the Principal of a school use the school email to distribute messages as well.

Rick noted that on the alternative schedule, the study would be finished in December, and grant applications are generally due around July. He asked if there would be time to apply for grants. Natasha replied that yes, there would be time to have grant applications done in time for the June and July deadlines.

Senya asked if the alternate schedule also came with an alternate price. Ms. Manbeck replied that it would be about \$5,000 more, but they could modify the scope of the project to stay within the original budget.

Senya said that many people here would find her presentation exceptional and he appreciated her enthusiasm.

Pennoni

Nathan Cline, PE, Office Manager, Pennoni, introduced *Marc Morfei, RLA, Senior Landscape Architect, Pennoni*. He explained that Mr. Morfei heads up the Trails Group for Pennoni, and is currently working on two projects. Mr. Cline noted that he lives in East Goshen, and he had a vested, personal interest in this project.

Mr. Morfei explained that he would be the Project Manager for the Paoli Pike Trail Feasibility Study. He spoke of several projects he has worked on, including a similar corridor in Bensalem, the Delaware River Trail, and the Cynwyd Heritage Trail.

Mr. Morfei explained that Pennoni would be able to take the project from plan, to design, to construction. He noted that he was looking at access and parking for the Paoli Pike Trail, and that he considered it a recreation, as well as a transportation system. Mr. Morfei is striving to create an off-road trail. He sees different land uses along the way, including private and residential property.

Mr. Morfei then identified the likely, potential, and challenging areas along Paoli Pike for creating a trail system. He said that the East Goshen Park area would be easy, but that number of driveways and major intersections would pose a challenge. He noted that in some areas they might be constrained to using the shoulder of the street, and that striping and signage would be required.

Mr. Morfei said that he sees the trail connecting East Goshen Park to West Chester East High School. He sees trails adding to the function and spirit of a community, and creating a transportation network. Mr. Morfei also thinks beyond the project limits, for example, citing the need to provide access to the trail from neighborhoods.

He noted that he considered how the trail would fit into a regional scheme of trails, and is excited for the future of a regional trail system.

Mr. Cline noted that East Goshen is familiar with the work of Pennoni, and emphasized that they complete projects on time.

Marty asked what other projects they are currently working on. Mr. Morfei responded that there is no question that they would have time in their schedule for the Paoli Pike project.

Marty asked how they envisioned involving the community in the project. Mr. Morfei suggested a Steering Committee, comprised of Supervisors, ABC members as well as residents and business representatives.

Marty said that the trail would go from Airport Road to Line Road. He asked if they had worked on projects similar to the Paoli Pike Trail. Mr. Morfei responded that their work in Bensalem included similar challenges.

Marty noted that he saw Engineers and Landscape Architects involved in the project, and asked why the Landscape side was in charge. Mr. Morfei responded that there is a landscaping side and an engineering side to the project. He explained that putting out the story of the trail helps the community to see the big picture on how the trail will be used. The engineering shows what the trail is going to look like. However, the landscaping goes hand in hand with engineering as the project moves forward.

Marty asked about the timeline for grants. He emphasized that we are trying to be one of the first in the region to begin trail planning. Mr. Cline said that East Goshen is ahead of the curve. Money is out there that others are not applying for yet, and there are many opportunities for grants.

Senya asked, what percentage of their studies come to fruition? Mr. Morfei responded that this region is fabulous for supporting its trails, and there is a high likelihood that our project will be completed. Mr. Cline said that the completion of the project will be driven by the Supervisors. Mr. Morfei added that the projects that have not been completed are in places where the municipal officials have not been aggressive or pro-active.

Marty asked if they could proceed with engineering and construction, and Mr. Cline responded that they could.

Mr. Broennle added that he had ridden on their Cynwyd trail and it was beautiful.

Simone Collins

Peter Simone, FASLA, Simone Collins, began his presentation by introducing himself and his team. Mr. Simone has twenty years of experience, mainly with trails and parks and recreation, and has worked on 70+ projects and he has worked with Penn DOT District 6 in the past.

Greg Richardson, P.E., Executive Vice President, TPD, has experience with traffic planning and design. TPD is a full-service transportation engineering firm and is partnering with Simone Collins as the traffic planning and transportation experts.

Geoffrey Creary, Simone Collins, often uses and highly appreciates trails. He knows the Township very well.

Jared Lowman, RLA, Simone Collins, has 10+ years with master planning, feasibility studies, and construction. He would serve as the Project Manager for the Paoli Pike Trail.

Benjamin Guthrie, P.E., TPD, is experienced with multimodal transportation systems. His specialty is working with cars, bicycles, and pedestrians.

Mr. Simone noted that the residents and businesses close to a proposed trail are typically concerned with safety. He added that it is important to listen carefully to the public and respond, as this facilitates his goal of creating a successful outcome. If selected, he has planned eleven meetings with the public, where the team can listen, inform and educate.

Mr. Simone has found that adopting an official map is helpful. He explained that since there is no bus service on Paoli Pike, a trail would provide an added mode of transportation.

Mr. Simone explained there are different user groups of bicyclists. Mr. Simone sees the trail as a combination of on-and off-road, and since Paoli Pike has wide car lanes, and sometimes a center turning lane, it would be easy to create on-road paths.

Mr. Simone said that they did the Master Plan for a corridor in Pottstown which included routes for children to walk to school. He noted that their Draft Plan for a trail in Chadds Ford could be found online.

Mr. Simone finds that renderings and graphics help communicate with the public, and showed how planting can be used to slow down cars. He sees trails as gateways to a community.

Mr. Simone noted that this is an eight month project, but they can do it faster if needed. He has planned four public meetings, five committee meetings, five staff meetings, and two Board of Supervisors meetings.

Marty asked how Simone Collins would garner community involvement. Mr. Simone cited the importance of returning phone calls and emails, and that it is important to be available to the community. He said that graphics are important in communication, having meetings at different times of the day is helpful, and having a presence in community events includes more people. He added that press releases are helpful as well.

Mr. Simone explained that he sees the trail connecting to neighborhoods along the way, and that the trail would connect the YMCA, the High School, and East Goshen Park.

Mr. Simone said that showing an end product is an important sales tool. He would provide detailed cost estimates, and a breakdown of cost per segment. Theirs would be a pre-engineered plan and would stay within the budget. They have extensive experiences with grant writing. He added that the project would be supervised by himself or his partner, who has 22 years of experience with trail planning.

Marty asked if they had worked on other, similar projects. Mr. Lowman responded that he has worked on five to eight similar, collaborative projects. Mr. Simone said that their Radnor project included similar challenges, and that the Paoli Pike Trail would be even easier. Mr. Creary added that the Paoli Pike Trail has two creeks with old bridges, but he sees a lot of potential.

Marty asked if the project was driven by engineering or landscaping. Mr. Simone said that they work together through the entire project. Mr. Guthrie emphasized the integrated approach.

Senya asked about the Class 3 bicycle classification. Mr. Creary explained that this is when the bicyclist has the right to use the whole lane, and cars must wait to pass. Senya said that bicyclists in Chester County use all roads as if they were Class 3. Mark noted that all of the roads in Chester County are, basically, Class 3 roads.

Senya asked if their firm concentrated solely on trails. Mr. Simone responded that they are an old-school architectural firm, involved in trails, parks, bridges, and more.

Senya asked what they saw as the greatest challenge to the trail. Mr. Simone responded that community involvement, and working with the neighbors. Mr. Creary added that there are wetlands along the proposed trail that could create challenges.

Discussion

Marty noted that Mr. Broennle had a lot of experience with trails, and asked his opinion of the four applicants. Mr. Broennle said that he had taken a lot of notes, but did not want to choose a finalist. He said that Paoli Pike should not be a Class 3 road, and that any on-road sections of the trail areas should be separated from Paoli Pike by a wooden fence, rather than metal, in keeping with the aesthetic of the area.

Senya asked Mr. Broennle how he would rate the interviews. Mr. Broennle replied that they all talked about good projects, but he liked McMahan. He said an important thing to consider is how easy they are to work with. He noted that we are familiar with Pennoni, and JMT's relationship with DVRPC was a plus.

Marty said that the Board faced a challenging decision.

Senya said that if we could harness the energy of Ms. Manbeck, we would all be at an advantage. He added that McMahan's presentation and responses were remarkable. He also found Simone Collins efforts to be complete. He would narrow the choice to McMahan and Simone Collins.

Marty agreed that Ms. Manbeck was very good, with a wealth of contacts. Senya added that having Ms. Manbeck as the voice of the presentation would be beneficial.

Chuck said that McMahan stood out, and Simone Collins was impressive. He was not in favor of JMT. He added that McMahan knows the area well.

Janet agreed that McMahan knows the area well. She said that Mr. Simone's presentation was more about convincing us to create a trail, rather than focusing on the Paoli Pike Trail itself.

Jason said that Mr. Simone was great, but that Mr. Lowman was not a good fit for us.

Senya added that McMahan has all of the aspects of the project in one house, while Simone Collins has two groups.

Marty noted that all of the applicants have the technical ability to complete the project, but that Ms. Manbeck was the best fit to work with us and with the public. He said that although Mr. Lowman was the Project Manager from Simone Collins, Mr. Simone dominated the presentation.

Senya made a motion to thank all of the applicants, and to accept the staff's recommendation to select McMahan for the Feasibility Study and Master Plan for the Paoli Pike Trail.

Chuck seconded the motion.

Rick noted that he approved of McMahan, and of using their alternate schedule. He said that it is important for the community to be involved, and the alternate schedule allowed for more community meetings. He added that there would still be time to submit grant applications with the alternate schedule.

Marty added that we needed to have Kristin Camp review the contract documents.

Senya amended his motion to include the extended schedule proposed by McMahan.

Chuck seconded the motion.

There was no public comment.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the Board adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Pam Pastorino
Recording Secretary