

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HERSHEY MILL DAM COMMITTEE
1580 PAOLI PIKE
DECEMBER 5, 2016 – 7:00 pm
FINAL MINUTES**

Present:

Wayne Hall - Chair, Blake Goll – Vice Chair, Sue Davis, Wendy Bartenstein, Nancy Aller, Ed Tomlinson, Jim Edmonds, and Jim Brandolini. Also in attendance were Supervisor Marty Shane, Township Manager Rick Smith, and Peter Simone, Melissa Barley, and Sarah Leeper, representing Simone Collins.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Wayne called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence:

Wayne called for a moment of silence to honor the members of the military who defend our country.

New Business:

Peter Simone asked that everyone sign the attendance sheet, noting that it would be evidence of public participation in the event the Township elected to apply for a PA DCNR grant for improvements at the Hershey Mill Dam site.

Peter introduced Sarah Leeper and Melissa of his firm and noted that Princeton Hydro, an engineering firm, would also be providing technical support. He provided background on the Hershey Mill project, noting that the decision to breach the dam had already been made and the Dam Committee has been asked to provide the Board with a recommendation on what should be done above the dam.

Peter stated he had developed four goals for this project:

- Engage the public to get the best plan
- The project should be ecologically sustainable
- Protect the privacy of nearby residents
- Have a low maintenance landscape

He asked residents what they are losing and the residents noted the following:

- Waterfall
- Ice skating
- The view
- Turtles
- History
- Animals
- Deer
- Canada geese
- Mosquitos

- Property values
- Serenity/calmness
- Loss of privacy

Peter then asked what the residents would like to have and the residents suggested the following:

- Bird/butterfly sanctuary
- No trails
- Meadow
- Waterfall (for the sound)

Peter noted that he did not think this would be a big demand site and suggested that a parking area may not be required since most of the residents in the immediate area could walk to the site.

He also noted that the Committee should explore the possibility of using the parking lot at the HOA swimming pool.

In response to a question about the existing trail, Rick advised that the Township had replaced a sanitary sewer line several years ago and that the residents had created a trail by walking over it.

Peter then asked the Committee members for their comments and the following was noted:

- It may be possible to preserve the waterfall.
- The Committee was considering community (neighborhood) access and external access.
- They would like to enhance the use of the area by the neighborhood residents.
- Preserve the ecology
- Install bat boxes, butterfly havens and areas for other pollinators
- Minimal accessibility
- Keep area natural
- Trail or path along Hershey Mill Road
- Be sensitive to the surrounding area

Marty reiterated that the Board will do what the residents want and noted the project should not be constrained by money, noting that grant money is available for stream restoration projects.

Minutes

Ed made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2016, as corrected. Jim Edmunds seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm by a motion from Ed and seconded by Jim Brandolini.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis F. Smith, Jr.
Township Manager

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