

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HERSHEY MILL DAM COMMITTEE MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
February 9, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.
FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Committee Members Chair Wayne Hall, Vice Chair Blake Goll, Nancy Aller, Tom Beggs, Ed Tomlinson, Jim Brandolini, Jim Edmunds, Wendy Bartenstein and Sue Davis, Board of Supervisors Chairman Marty Shane, Vice Chairman Carmen Battavio and Township Manager Rick Smith

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Wayne called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. 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 keep us safe both locally and abroad.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

Review comments received on Concept Plans

Jim Edmund suggested that the Committee should focus on what it was tasked to do; which was to develop a plan on how to improve the area above the dam after it has been breached. He also suggested that we have Peter Simone provide the Committee with cost info as we work on the draft plan.

Marty noted that cost estimates are to be provided when the draft plan is presented in March. Wayne requested that Rick ask Peter to provide us with cost estimates, even if they are preliminary, when he meets with the Committee on February 23.

Wayne noted the “public access” is required for obtaining state grants and there is some confusion about what the term means. Rick said he would contact the grant agencies and find out.

Jim Edmunds noted that the Committee needed to follow the “process” which is to solicit public input on the proposed improvements from all sources and make a recommendation to the Board.

Wayne then asked Ed to update the Committee about the results of his meeting with Peter Simone, noting that Ed serves a dual role since he also sit on the Hershey Mill Estates HOA Board of Directors. It was noted that the Hershey Mill Estates HOA was holding a meeting on Sunday to discuss “trails’.

Ed noted that according to numerous studies trails are a desirable feature and that walking is one of the most popular activities. In addition if a mulch or gravel surface trail is installed it must be “safe” for someone to walk on.

Wayne noted that Peter is a consultant who is very knowledgeable in this field.

Wayne then asked the Committee what they liked about the Impoundment Concept Plan and the Trail Concept Plan.

With respect to the Trail Concept Plan the members noted that the sewer line foot path, walkway D4 and the walkway at HOA1 seemed to provide sufficient access to the impoundment area. It was noted that D2, which is currently an open grass area is used a sledding hill for kids and occasionally used by residents to access the open space. The consensus being that there should be no improvements or changes to existing paths with the possible exception of adding a wooden boardwalk over the wetlands at the end of the sewer line foot path. Any new paths should only be in the impoundment area. A parking area should not be included since on-street parking is permitted.

The consensus for the Impoundment Concept Plan, it was that one or more benches would be nice, deer resistant native plants should be used, and perhaps the foot path should be moved in so that you were walking thru the impoundment area as opposed to walking around it. It was noted that other amenities may be considered as the Committee went thru the process.

The Committee discussed how the above information should be communicated to Peter Simone. Jim Edmunds moved to send the draft minutes to Peter, the motion was seconded by Sue and approved unanimously.

In response to a question Rick advised that federal and state regulations limit what can be done in a wetland, which may impact some of the features shown on the Impoundment Concept Plan.

Public Comment

Kathy Sloane expressed a concern that the Committee was encouraging people to congregate in the impoundment area (which is located near her property) and suggested the trail and benches in the impoundment area be eliminated.

Dick McCabe suggested that the input from the property owners who abut the impoundment area should carry more weight since they would be the most effected.

Wayne stated that it is the Committee’s intent to complete scheduled public meetings, consider all feedback received and develop what is hoped will be a suitable plan. The Committee members recognize pathways and easement use is a very significant concern and deserves very careful examination. All feedback received during the first two public meeting and from those attending the Committee meetings to date is acknowledged and very much appreciated.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Tom moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm and the motion was seconded by Jim Brandolini and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis F. Smith, Jr.
Township Manager

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