

AGENDA  
EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
HERSHEY MILL DAM COMMITTEE  
MARCH 23, 2017  
7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Draft Plan by Simone Collins

3. OLD BUSINESS

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 23, 2017

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

May 24, 2017	6:30 pm	Committee Meeting (Review Draft Plan Comments)
June 22, 2017	7:00pm	Public Meeting #4 (Presentation of Final Plan)

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**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
HERSHEY MILL DAM COMMITTEE MEETING  
1580 PAOLI PIKE  
February 23, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Committee Members: Chair Wayne Hall, Ed Tomlinson, Jim Brandolini, Jim Edmunds, Blake Goll, and Nancy Aller; Township Supervisors Marty Shane, Carmen Battavio, Chuck Proctor, and Mike Lynch; Township Manager Rick Smith; and Peter Simone from Simone Collins

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:**

Wayne called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 keep us safe both locally and abroad.

**New Business:**

None

**Old Business:**

Peter summarized the results of Survey 2, noting that the majority of the respondents did not want trails. However, they do want a pond and a waterfall.

Peter then reviewed the proposed Draft Plan for the impoundment area. The pond would be 55' x 160' (1/5 acre) in size. A raised area, which he referred to as an "island" would be constructed on the east side of the pond. The island would be planted with trees. Native plants would be used in the impoundment area. A rock waterfall or step pools would be used to transition the change in stream elevation. The existing sewer line footpath would be extended to allow people to access the rock waterfall, the island, and the west side of the pond. There would be no improvements of changes to the existing footpaths or pedestrian easements. Peter noted that the entire area, with the exception of the island, would continue to flood.

The pond would not be on line with the stream. Control structures would be used to divert water to the pond and to maintain the water level in the pond. The pond would be adjacent to Hershey Mill Road to facilitate silt removal in the future. The meadow area will need to be mowed in order to control the woody vegetation.

Marty asked if it would be possible to preserve the existing spillway and move the breach to the east. Peter noted that the breach location was an engineering decision, but the plan could be modified to accommodate a change in location.

Marty noted that we need to provide for "public access" in order to increase the chances for grant funding, and suggested that a parking area be provided on Hershey Mill Road.

1 Peter stated that DNCR provides grant funds for parks with public access and ADA-compliant  
2 facilitates in the \$200,000 to \$300,000 range. While there are stream restoration programs which  
3 do not require public access, the grants are in the \$10,000 to \$20,000 range. He noted that a  
4 small parking area (3-4 cars) could be constructed off of Hershey Mill Road. Based on his  
5 experience, he expected that this area would be used by local residents only.  
6

7 Peter noted the impoundment would be planted with a variety of plant material, the stream banks  
8 would be eased, and rock veins would be installed in the stream to provide fish habitat.  
9

10 Marty asked about the existing vegetation and Peter noted that it would have to be removed and  
11 there were several ways to accomplish it.  
12

13 Blake asked about deer and Peter noted that protecting the new plant material from deer would  
14 be a challenge. He suggested that new trees would require deer tubes, and fencing off the site for  
15 the first few years would be another option.  
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17 In response to a question about what could be done to eliminate the wet area on the sewer line  
18 footpath, Rick noted that a permit would be required to make any improvements in the wetlands.  
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20 Kathy Sloane asked why the Committee is considering footpaths in the impoundment area since  
21 the survey results said the residents did not want trails. Wayne noted that a review of the survey  
22 results indicated that residents did not want the pedestrian access easements improved with trails.  
23 Hershey Mill Estates residents had accessed the impoundment area before; he expected that they  
24 would want to continue to do so in the future and that the Committee had to consider all of the  
25 residents in the community.  
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27 Ed noted that the first survey indicated that over 50% of the respondents wanted walking paths in  
28 the impoundment area.  
29

30 Kathy Sloane stated she did not want people in the impoundment area.  
31

32 Marty noted that the Board could decide to just leave the area as-is, and that in order for the  
33 Township to get grants, public access is required. The Committee has worked hard to minimize  
34 the impact on the adjacent properties, and he believes that a majority of people would prefer  
35 what has been proposed as compared to leaving the site as-is.  
36

37 Blake stated that the proposed plan is environmentally sound, that we had a duty to improve  
38 conditions for wildlife, and that this plan would provide an "opportunity for kids to connect with  
39 nature."  
40

41 Bob Cosby noted the plan would eliminate the existing spillway and requested that the breach be  
42 moved to the east. Wayne stated that the location of the breach was not up the Committee. The  
43 Committee was tasked with developing a plan for the impoundment area.  
44

45 Marty stated that the Board is accountable to all Township residents and that the Board is fully  
46 aware that it cannot make everyone happy.

1 Bob Cosby asked that given the dam's age, if the Township had looked for funding to fix an  
2 historic dam. Rick advised that while the state had grant programs to fix high-hazard, unsafe  
3 dams, the Hershey Mill Dam was not classified as a high-hazard dam and the grant program was  
4 not funded by the state. Peter noted the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission does  
5 not have funds available.

6  
7 Peter noted that DCNR grant applications are due April 12<sup>th</sup> and DCED grant applications are  
8 due May 31<sup>st</sup> and suggested that the Township apply.

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10 Bob Cosby asked on behalf of Neil DeRiemer, who was away on business, if the section of  
11 footpath closest to Neil's home could be relocated. He also expressed a concern about people  
12 walking by his house. Peter noted that signage or plantings could be used to deter people from  
13 going where we did not want them to go.

14  
15 In response to a question from Kathy Sloane, Peter noted that the Draft Plan would include a  
16 pond, "island", rock waterfall and a parking area on Hershey Mill Road. The sewer line foot path  
17 would be extended to provide access to the "island" and pond. The foot path around the  
18 impoundment area would be pulled in and plantings would be installed to minimize the impact to  
19 abutting property owners. Peter stated that the Draft Plan will be subject to a 60-day review  
20 period and that further changes would be possible.

21  
22 Kathy Sloane asked about future meetings. Rick advised her that all meetings were advertised  
23 and posted on the Township website, and encouraged her to sign up for Constant Contact.

24  
25 **Minutes**

26 Jim Brandolini moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 2017, and the motion was  
27 seconded by Ed and approved unanimously.

28  
29 **Public Comment**

30 None

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32 **Adjournment:**

33 There being no further business, Jim Brandolini moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm and  
34 the motion was seconded by Jim Edmunds and approved unanimously.

35  
36 Respectfully submitted,

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40 Louis F. Smith, Jr.  
41 Township Manager