

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
MILLTOWN DAM COMMITTEE MEETING  
1580 PAOLI PIKE  
March 22, 2017 - 7:00 pm  
FINAL MINUTES**

**Present:** Committee members: Vice Chairman Dana Pizarro, Dave Hewett, Chuck Hepler and Glenn Artman. Township Supervisors: Chairman Martin Shane, Carmen Battavio, Janet Emanuel and Mike Lynch. Also in attendance were: Rick Smith (Township Manager), and Consultants Peter Simone and Sarah Leeper.

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Dana called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence to remember our troops and first responders. Dana asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. There was no response.

**Chairman's Announcements**

Dana announced that the order of the meeting will be presentation of the draft plan by Sarah Leeper and Peter Simone followed by public comments/questions.

**New Business**

**Milltown Dam Breach** – Peter commented that this is still a draft plan. The draft plan and a new survey will be on the Township website. You will have 60 days to review and respond. At the next meeting, on May 23, 2017, the Committee will review the draft plan comments. Presentation of the Final Plan will be on June 20, 2017. After the Master Plan is approved, they will start applying for funding.

Sarah mentioned Milltown is passive open space, which means no active sports are allowed. The Milltown Dam was built in 1920 and recently declared a high flood risk. The dam will be lowered and the stream will be allowed to find its natural channel. She showed a timeline chart with the breach to start in 2018. She showed a map of East Goshen with all recreation and open space areas indicated. Future trails are planned along West Chester Pike to Reservoir Road up Reservoir Road to Paoli Pike. She showed photos of the current condition of Chester Creek and reviewed the flood plains and wetlands. The result of the 1<sup>st</sup> survey was that residents favored small habitat islands and a 3 acre pond. The result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> survey was that residents wanted trails for walking and biking, plantings, benches, parking, etc. The Draft Master Plan has a 2 ½ acre pond, main parking area with 8 regular spaces and 2 ADA spaces, two ways in and out of the parking area, portable restrooms, ADA fishing pier and a low meadow along the dam area. There will be 3 phases:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phase – Pairing with dam work earth movement to create the pond area. Start to develop parking lot and trail
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase – Plantings – Meadow, trees, shrubs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase – Second parking lot, extend trails

It is anticipated that the project will take 8 years depending on funding. By using a riparian buffer it is hoped that the result will satisfy the MS4 plan to remove silt from the impaired watershed. The overall cost is estimated to be \$1.4 M for all 3 phases.

Peter commented that they will apply to DCNR for \$500,000 and DCD for \$250,000 to start phase #1 in 2018. If we don't get that funding, then we will wait a year to reapply.

Marty commented that since we don't know how funding will go, might we have to eliminate funding for Hershey Mill Dam? Peter answered yes. The DCNR gives grants on merit. DCNR funding is from the PA real estate transfer tax. He feels this plan fits so many of their priorities that the only thing that might cause a delay is competition. This year lower the water in stages, the vegetation starts to grow then start the breach.

### **Public Comments and Questions**

1. Ed Decker, 40 Lochwood Lane – asked when the draw down will start. Sarah answered May.

2. Mike Lynch (supervisor) – Does the DEP have to sign off on the 3 acre pond? Rick responded that the DEP has seen the plan and as long as it doesn't flood they are okay with it. Peter mentioned that the permit will be for 5 years and he recommends waiting a year if funding isn't available this year. He also mentioned that you could do phase 1 and have it usable for several years, then do the other phases when funding is available.

Sarah mentioned that the DCNR application needs to be submitted in April with an answer in the fall. The DCD application deadline is June with an answer by December.

Rick commented that the Township will let the residents know when grants are approved.

3. Ed Decker, 40 Lochwood Lane – He thought there wasn't to be restrooms. Dana pointed out that during the last meeting it was discussed to have them on a trial basis first to see how much use there would be.

Mr. Decker asked why the pond decreased to 2 ½ acres. Sarah mentioned that they worked with different concepts to stay away from the wetlands. Dana commented that silt removal will alter the size too. Peter mentioned that the way in which the stream settles may also effect the pond.

Mr. Decker asked about the second parking lot in Supplee Valley. Sarah explained that the trail along Reservoir Road will cross Strasburg Road to connect with the Supplee Valley Trail so this area was considered for additional parking.

Mr. Decker asked about the construction contingency of 15%. Who controls that? Peter answered that no one owns it, it is an estimate. Because this is a public project it has to be publicly bid so there may be other factors that will impact the cost. Dana commented that he has seen some contingencies as high as 35%.

4. Jim Seeley, 47 Lochwood Lane – There is less parking than he hoped for. Will there be additional parking? Peter answered that the Township could add more in the future.

Mr. Seeley asked about flooding. Peter commented that there is no body of water up against the dam impoundment. Sarah mentioned that new pond water level is 5 feet lower than the current pond. Mr. Seely asked if this would ever be considered hazardous again. Rick answered no.

5. Janet Emanuel (Supervisor) – The Paoli Pike Task Force has to come up with trails from various parts of the township to connect with the Paoli Pike Trail. One is Reservoir Road. They would appreciate any information on the trail in this plan. Rick explained that this plan will get us half way to Paoli Pike.

6. Baxter Wellmon, 46 Lochwood Lane – He feels the Phase 1 map is misleading because it shows plantings which won't be there for 2 or 3 years. Peter commented that Phase 1 will do all

of things listed in the phase plan. The detailed cost estimate shows that the plants that grow when the reservoir is drawn down will stay if they are native. Those plants that are not native will be removed and a conservation cover crop will be sown in its place. Mr. Wellmon is concerned that they start but get no funding. His backyard looks on this area. Marty explained the process for approval of the plan. The BOS is committed to follow through if they approve it. They think it is a good plan. Mr. Wellmon is not challenging the plan but this is the first time he heard about phases and funding. Rick reviewed Phase 2 & 3 and commented that the Township could complete these phases in house if necessary. Rick commented that the Township is committed to maintaining this area through mowing. Sarah recommended to mow to a 10" height the first year.

7. Denise Decker, 40 Lochwood Lane – She asked if there is a concern about bugs and mosquitoes. Peter explained, to keep them under control, the water has to be moving which it will be doing through the project.

8. Glenn Artman- committee member – He commented about his concern with trails and safety. He will be okay with it as long as it is maintained through the phases. The entire process has been good. He can live with the plan whichever way the stream goes.

9. Chuck Helper – committee member – 12A Reservoir Road – He fought against the breaching and did not know there could be a reasonable plan, but he is very pleased with this plan. During good weather months, there are people there all the time, so he feels this will be a good opportunity. There are 9 acres of water now, he would not want to see less than 2.5 acres. This was the #1 request of the people and he mentioned the eagle that comes there.

10. Dana Pizarro – committee member – If the land is built to the grade, parking could be added later. It has been interesting watching the people who live around the reservoir work through all of this. He commends everyone who worked on this.

Since there were no more questions, the meeting was closed to public comments.

Glenn made a motion to post the draft plan and put Survey #3 on the Township website for 60 days. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Minutes**

Chuck moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2017 meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer  
Recording Secretary