

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HERSHEY MILL DAM COMMITTEE MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
JANUARY 26, 2017 – 7:00 P.M.
FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Committee Members Nancy Aller, Tom Beggs, Ed Tomlinson, Jim Brandolini, and Wendy Bartenstein, Board of Supervisors Chairman Marty Shane, Vice Chairman Carmen Battavio, Township Manager Rick Smith, and Peter Simone, Melissa Barley, and Sarah Leeper representing Simone Collins.

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Ed called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence:

Ed called for a moment of silence to honor the members of the military who keep us safe both locally and abroad.

New Business:

Peter Simone introduced the members of his firm. He stated that Survey 1 was closed and that there were 231 responses and 73 responses from Hershey Mill Estates. He reviewed the results of Survey 1, noting that trails and access to the area were some of the most wanted improvements.

Peter noted that he was surprised by the number of pedestrian easements that are shown on the subdivision plan for Hershey Mill Estates. He noted that there was a footpath in a pedestrian easement on Mill Race Lane and that the Trail Concept Plan was intended to show all possible trail connections.

Peter then opened the floor up to questions and comments as noted below:

- In response to a question, Peter said the Board of Supervisors will make the final decision on trails.
- Some homeowners are not aware of the easements.
- Concerns about parking spaces on Tanglewood Drive
- Concerns about increase in criminal behavior
- Project will increase traffic on Hershey Mill Road
- Trails will impact people's property.
- In response to a question, Peter noted that the State of Pennsylvania conducted a study that indicated trails are the most desired public recreational facility.
- Why should we promote a park in this area?

Tom Beggs reiterated that the Trail Concept Plan is intended to show what is possible.

- In response to a question, Rick Smith confirmed the pedestrian easements are shown on the approved plans.

- It was noted that the grading required to install a trail along Greenhill Road would be expensive.
- Speeding is a problem on Greenhill Road.
- In response to a question, Peter stated that trails are not required for grants, but that the general public must be able to access the site.
- In response to a question, Peter stated that footpaths are not required to meet ADA requirements.
- In response to a question, Rick advised that most of the easements were 20 feet wide and straddled the property line.
- The first survey was deceptive.
- It was suggested that Millstream Drive be added to the list of developments in the next survey.
- It was noted the “overlook” shown on the plan looks over a silted retention basin.

Sue Davis noted the Committee has been tasked with deciding what to do with the area and their goal is to make it more attractive.

There being no further questions, Peter presented the Concept Plan for the Impoundment Area.

He noted there would be a small pond about the size of a tennis court next to Hershey Mill Road. A foot trail would be constructed between Hershey Mill Road and the pond. An island would be created between the pond and the stream. Pedestrian circulation would be accomplished by boardwalks over the stream or stepping stones that would connect to the existing sewer line footpath. The transition in stream elevation above and below the dam will be accomplished by a waterfall over large rocks or a series of step pools. The area will be landscaped with more interesting and more appropriate plant material.

Peter then opened the floor up to questions and comments as noted below:

In response to questions, Peter noted that:

- The area will flood and we must account for the 100-year floodplain.
- We may or may not be able to have a bridge over the creek.
- We do not have to do anything, i.e., we could breach the dam and let nature takes its course.
- We will use native plants.
- We do not have any cost estimates.
- The pond area can be planted with a wide variety of plants.

Comments:

- We need to use deer-resistant plants
- Kids will be kids and will play in the open space.
- The pond and waterfall have been there for 30 years and should remain.

Jim Brandolini stated that the area currently looks bad and that the kids will like what is proposed on the Concept Plan.

Neil DeRiemer stated he is vehemently opposed to the location of the breach.

Marty Shane stated that the Board knew some residents would be angry with the Board's decision to breach the Hershey Mill and Milltown Dams. The Board established two committees to work with Peter Simone to develop plans on what can be done to the areas above the dams.

He suggested that the residents or the HOA Board of Directors meet with the Committee to discuss what they would like to see happen.

Peter noted that tonight's PowerPoint presentation would be posted on the Township website and that Survey 2 would be open on Friday. In response to a question, Rick advised he would have paper copies of the survey available at the Township Building for those residents without internet access

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Jim moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm and the motion was seconded by Tom and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis F. Smith, Jr.
Township Manager