

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
HERSHEY MILL DAM COMMITTEE MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
March 23, 2017 - 7:00 pm
FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Committee members: Chairman Wayne Hall, Ed Tomlinson, Jim Brandolini, Jim Edmunds, Sue Davis, Nancy Aller and Tom Beggs. Township Supervisors: Chairman Martin Shane, Carmen Battavio, Janet Emanuel, Charles Proctor and Mike Lynch. Also in attendance were: Rick Smith (Township Manager), and Consultants Peter Simone and Sarah Leeper.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Wayne 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. Wayne asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. There was no response.

Chairman's Announcements

Wayne 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

Hershey Mill 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 24, 2017, the Committee will review the draft plan comments. Presentation of the Final Plan will be on June 22, 2017. After the Master Plan is approved, they will start applying for funding. Anticipated start of the project is late 2018.

Sarah mentioned there has been a dam at this location since the 1800's. She reviewed the map of the area. She commented that they have to consider the residential property below the dam. After they reviewed the results of the first and second survey, they developed the Draft Master Plan. She showed photos of step pools and natural stream crossings using stones. The parking area will have 5 spots, of which 2 will be ADA accessible to the pond. They included an optional trail that would loop around the pond. There will be low meadow plantings and areas of reforestation. They plan 2 phases – #1 for the pond, parking and other slopes and #2 for access improvements and final plantings. The total cost is estimated at \$241,666. Marty commented that we won't know the real cost until the plan goes out for public bid.

Public Comments/Questions

1. Neil DeRiemer, 1034 Hershey Mill Road – He mentioned that the PA Historic Commission has not finished their review of the plan yet. The PA review could change things.

Rick commented that when the Consultant does the final review, the plan will go to the PA Historic Commission.

Mr. DeRiemer is very concerned that when the dam is breached the increased flow of water will impact his property especially during storms.

Rick mentioned that the step pools will help slow down the water flow.

Mr. DeRiemer mentioned that he has a meeting scheduled with the Governor to see about moving the breach to the east.

2. Dianne Hayes, 1222 Foxglove Lane – In the past there was a pond on the dam side of Foxglove. Why was it drained?

Rick commented that the Township had a spray irrigation system in Lochwood Chase. They took it off line and drained the lagoons a few years ago.

Ms. Hayes asked if they are going to show the number of responses to survey #3. Sarah responded yes.

Ms. Hayes asked if there will be a curfew in this area. Rick responded sun up to sun down.

3. Dottie White, 1546 Mill Race Lane, asked if there is going to be a chain at the parking lot to shut it off at night. Rick commented that the Township does not shut open space.

Ms. White mentioned that Hershey Mill Estates had to chain off their community pool because of people coming around after dark.

4. Rick McCabe, 1205 Burning Bush - How did the parking lot come to be? Is it due to funding? He feels it will be a serious problem.

Peter mentioned that they looked at other parking options and none were acceptable. The DCNR requires access to parking with ADA spaces. This was the best solution. Marty explained the process of getting funding. The committee is recommending this plan based on data from surveys and public meetings.

Mr. McCabe asked how much maintenance will cost and will there be a budget for it. Marty answered yes but they don't know yet what the cost to maintain it will be.

5. Dianne Hayes, 1222 Foxglove Lane – It is her understanding that if trails are put in, the state requires parking. Is there an option to do the breach without trails?

Wayne Hall commented that the pathways have been minimized. They are only in this area not out of it. He feels that this improves the appeal for new homebuyers.

Peter mentioned the MS4 stream water quality. If this project isn't done, the Township has to reduce the sediment in Ridley Creek by 10%. This project will satisfy a lot of the requirements for Ridley Creek.

Ms. Hayes strongly agrees with the comments about security for off hours.

6. Dottie White, 1546 Mill Race Lane – Will the survey ask which path is preferred? Also people don't realize that parking is required. Peter commented that you can send an email to Rick Smith with your opinion. A survey shouldn't be taken as a vote. It is a way to get opinions.

Ms. White mentioned that the land area is the same as the first plan. Wayne commented that everything has been reconfigured. This is the 3rd revised plan.

7. Kathy Sloane, 1202 Burning Bush – She is opposed to the optional path.

8. Robert Cosby, 1567 Green Hill Road – Asked if the plan changes the stream. Peter answered no.

9. Rick McCabe, 1205 Burning Bush – He is still concerned about security. Peter commented that this will be used mostly by local residents. If there are any issues, call the police.

10. Robert Cappucci, 1214 Candytuft Lane – Will there be any signs about the history of the area? Peter answered yes.

11. Jim Edmunds, committee member, asked if the footpath through the wetland will be dirt or mulch and is it shown in the yellow area? Peter commented that the yellow area is the meadow. The path will be mulch.

Jim mentioned that at an earlier meeting a boardwalk was suggested. Peter commented that a boardwalk could be 4 – 5 feet wide. There is permitting for a boardwalk.

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

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

Committee Discussion

Jim Edmunds asked about funding. Rick mentioned that there are two agencies we can apply to for grants – DCNR and DCD. Also there is a 3rd – Pennvest.

Wayne verified again that access is needed for these grants.

Jim Edmunds asked if the Phase 1 cost includes demolition. Peter answered no – that is separate.

Jim commented that the improvements could cost more than the funding we get.

Marty mentioned that the Township received grants for the Paoli Pike trail and East Goshen Park. The MS4 program has no funding. Hopefully the engineers will be satisfied with the MS4 as a result of the project. The minimum is to breach the dam and put in step pools to control the flow. Rick mentioned that the draft plan will go to Pennoni, the Township Engineer, for MS4 review.

Tom Beggs suggested another minimum of no parking or ADA paths but do the pond with minimum paths and the breach for a lower cost. We just need to look at the 3rd survey feedback.

Susan mentioned that the pond is something everyone wants. She also mentioned bird houses.

Rick commented that they can be done in house.

Wayne commented that the plan they have developed is based on what people want.

Jim Brandolini commented that this is the plan we want and parking is required.

Marty commented that 17 people were at this public meeting out of over 100 homes. He feels this means that people are okay with what you have done. He feels this will be a real asset compared to what is there today. He commended the Committee on what they have done.

Minutes

Jim Edmunds moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2017 meeting. Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer

Recording Secretary

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