

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING
MAY 10, 2017**

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Sandy Snyder, Erich Meyer, Andy Tyler, Walter Wujcik, Patti Brown, and John Scheidt. Also in attendance was Mike Lynch, Supervisor.

Call to Order

Sandy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Sandy led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and then asked for a moment of silence to remember those who serve in our military and our first responders.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 12, 2017 meeting were approved.

New Business

Spring Planting in Marydell – Several residents attended the meeting to discuss the trees planted at the Marydell pond.

Public Comments:

1. Jim Williams, 1524 High Meadow Lane – He has lived here 20 years. He is here to ask that the trees just planted at the pond be removed. He was told that the pond is going to be allowed to become a wetland. Something has to be done to preserve the pond. Fifteen years ago the small pond was dredged and pumps were installed to aerate it. He asked if that can be done for the big pond and was told there is no funding for that at this time. Two feet is the average depth of the pond. He is concerned that the trees will block the view of the pond. When the trees grow they will generate a lot of leaves, which will impact the pond to become a wetland. Over the last few years, mosquitoes have increased. He had a pro look at it and they determined they were coming from the pond. He was told the ponds used to be treated. Mr. Williams feels this situation will impact property values. Rick Smith explained to him that the Conservancy Board has the authority to plant trees and remove them. There is no plan with the township for the pond. He urgently requests that they be removed. He is willing to try to raise funds to dredge the pond.

2. Dianne Haley, 510 Barker Dr. – She sent Sandy an email and is disappointed she get back to her. Sandy commented that she did not see any emails about the trees. Sandy explained that this project has been planned for at least 6 months.

3. Beth Brown, 503 Barker Dr. - She said the minutes don't state exactly where the trees are being planted.

4. Jean Hendrix, 511 Barker Dr. - She wondered if the Conservancy Board could recommend to the Board of Supervisors to have the pond rehabbed. Chasing the geese away is one of the reasons why there are more mosquitoes. She referred to page 52 of the Open Space Report. She commented that Marydell is known for its beauty. However, she did complement the Board on the choice of trees. They were good selections.

5. Stacey Shallis, Barker Dr. – She lives across from the pond and is concerned about the pond’s condition. The views and wildlife are wonderful. She suggested moving the trees to the other side of the pond so the leaves won’t blow into the pond. She had a beautiful view of the pond.

6. Jim Williams, 1524 High Meadow Lane – He thinks it is great that the Conservancy Board members volunteer to do these things. However, there are some consequences. A deeper pond would produce cooler water. The fact that the residents did go to the Board of Supervisors and the Conservancy Board didn’t know about it is a concern.

7. John Haley, 510 Barker Dr. – There are a lot of larger trees that have fallen and are still there. He is willing to remove them. Jean Hendrix mentioned that it was decided to leave those trees there for the wildlife.

Board Member Comments:

1. Sandy explained that the Conservancy Board is an advisory Board. If there were any concerns presented to the Conservancy Board, they would investigate and do site walks, etc. These trees were planted to help the pond not to replace the fallen trees. This is open space and the township knew we were planting there. The Conservancy Board also recommends that dead trees be left for wildlife as long as it is safe to do so. We never intended to make the pond a wetland. The purpose was to save the pond.

2. Erich feels that Rick is referring to the August 2015 BOS meeting when they discussed the township ponds. Dredging has to be taken up with the BOS. There were 12 trees planted, 4 were donated. The cost was \$1,400.00.

3. Andy, who is a Marydell resident, commented that he hasn’t heard anything about a wetland. He explained that the trees will produce shade and cool the water down for the great variety of aquatic wildlife.

4. Patti commented that they thought they were doing a good thing to improve the pond.

5. Walter also commented that their thought was to improve the pond. Dredging is a BOS issue.

Steve Shallis, Barker Dr. – He said we all love East Goshen. This is a bad time with the Sunoco pipeline and the reservoir. What can the residents do? Sandy suggested they write letters and ask to be on the BOS meeting agenda.

Mike Lynch – He explained that he is a newly appointed supervisor replacing Senya. He thanked everyone for coming. Their comments are very important. He does not know the full history of the pond but he will speak with Rick Smith. He complimented Mr. Williams and suggested he be the spokesman for the residents. Mike will tell the BOS about their concerns. He suggested they may want to come to a BOS meeting. The next one is May 23. He can't say anything about dredging. The BOS may consider having a research study done. He recommended that Mr. Williams contact Rick Smith again.

Erich recommended that a group of residents should come to the BOS meeting when they are scheduled on the agenda.

Sandy commented that the Conservancy Board will do a site walk and start researching. She explained how the Board has handled residents' requests in the past.

Mr. Williams feels the trees should be removed now because studies take time.

Old Business

1. Wood Chips at Clymers Woods – Sandy mentioned that they ran out of chips so only half of the trees were done. She thanked Erich for his front-end loader. She will ask Mark Miller for more chips.
2. Blue Bird Houses – Patti reported that the houses were very dirty. She cleaned them. There are a few sticks with nothing on them. Mark should be notified so new houses can be built.

Liasion Reports

Board of Supervisors - Mike reported that the required MS4 permit to reduce sediment in the creeks will be met with the breaching of the dams. A subdivision request on Meadowbrook Lane needs a variance but they have to show a hardship.

Park & Recreation – Erich reported that they are concerned about the serpentine rock and weeds growing back. Erich did some research and it probably wasn't burned enough. We need to find out how Natural Lands Trust handles this.

Municipal Authority – Walter reported that the West Goshen Sewer Authority plans to borrow \$2.9 million. There was a meeting planned today to discuss East Goshen's agreement with West Goshen.

Any Other Matter

1. Correspondence - Sandy reviewed a letter dated February 15 from Mary Jean Smith of Bellingham who wrote about the loss of pollinators. She is suggesting that orange milkweed be planted in back of the Plank House. Sandy will respond to her.
2. PEC - Walter moved that the \$40 membership fee be paid. John seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Walter moved to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting will be June 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer
Recording Secretary