

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 14, 2017**

The East Goshen Township Conservancy Board held a regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Building. In attendance were: Chairman Sandy Snyder, Erich Meyer, Andy Tyler, Walter Wujcik, and Patti Brown. 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 May 10, 2017 meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

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

Sandy welcomed the residents. She spoke about the process for a motion to the Board of Supervisors, which the Conservancy Board will make at this meeting.

Jim Williams, 1524 High Meadow Lane – asked when the BOS would make a decision. Sandy commented next Tuesday, June 20, 2017.

Paul Diorio, 467 Gateswood Ln – asked what the plan is for the pond. When they went to the BOS meeting, they were told there is no plan to save the pond. Sandy mentioned that the Conservancy Board hasn't had talks with the BOS about the pond. She mentioned the purpose of the planting was to provide shade to cool the pond. She spoke about riparian buffer systems and how they help with the wildlife and stabilize the edge of the pond.

Andy commented that the Conservancy Board's concern is the health of the pond. Algae is collecting on it now. They are trying to use the trees to give it shade in the am and pm with a few hours of sun during the day.

Marybeth Avioli, 658 Marydell Ln. – In the winter the kids have sledged across the pond. Now they will crash into the trees.

Paul Diorio mentioned that when he called the township about sledding, he was told they shouldn't be sledding.

Marybeth thinks the trees will take up the water. She feels the community might pay for another option.

Erich mentioned that the BOS has asked the Township staff to look into getting a study done on all Township ponds.

Jim Williams, 1524 High Meadow Ln. – He is concerned about the community paying for anything when they already pay taxes. The pond was supposed to be a filter but there hasn't been any maintenance of the filter. He feels it is part of the infrastructure of the township and there should be a plan for it. Rick Smith told him there is no money for dredging or aeration, and they were prepared to let it go to a wetland. He feels basic research should have been done before planting the trees. They are changing the sight view and will cause problems with the leaves. Andy commented that the wind will blow the leaves into the woods not into the pond. The leaves that are blown into the pond area are from the surrounding properties. Andy has walked the pond and runs past it regularly. The Conservancy Board wants to preserve the life of the pond.

Jim Williams mentioned the about 3 years ago he talked with the Township staff about mosquitoes around the pond. Andy mentioned that there is a mosquito trap that Walmart sells which is very effective against mosquitos. Andy explained how it works.

Mike Lynch mentioned that this matter will be taken up by the BOS next week. Mike was told that Rick Smith contacted the Natural Lands Trust to do a study of the ponds. Mike has asked for a comprehensive study and, if needed, for funds to be put in the 2018 budget. He feels that this is an opportunity to look at the situation and consider what is best. He appreciates the residents' concerns. We need to see what the NLT report says. He sees no harm in leaving the trees in at this point. He has had a lot of experience with the NLT. Debbie Williams, 1524 High Meadow Ln – asked if the NLT has been to the pond. Mike responded that we won't know until we see their report. The time this will take is not long. All views are of value.

Joan E. Diorio, 467 Gateswood Ln. - commented that she was at the last meeting and explained it to her daughters. In the process of doing that, she realized that it seems that everyone wants to return this to a wetland. She feels the trees are too close together. Andy mentioned that a few years ago they had a fish kill at the pond, there is always algae on it and it is very shallow. Also, the water that flows down the hill from other properties has chemicals in it from fertilizing.

Sandy commented that the pond property belongs to the Township not the residents.

Mary Ellen Miller, 1507 Wilson Ln – She is new to the meeting and glad that they are going to have a commission look at the ponds and see what should be done. She is an original owner and feels that, even though they don't own it, they should have been included in the decision.

Russell Miller, 1507 Wilson Ln. – He is hearing a lot of technical stuff. What are the qualifications of the Conservancy Board members to make these decisions?

The Board members listed what they do: Erich has been a landscaper for many years; Sandy is an environmental attorney; Walter is an environmental engineer; Andy works with environmental litigation; and Patti was a CFM.

Jim Williams does appreciate that this is a learning experience. Something needs to be done to improve communications between the BOS and Conservancy Board.

Sandy explained all the steps that are taken on a project like this from Rick Smith's approval of the funds to Public Works helping with the trees. The Conservancy Board has never been required to notify residents when they plant trees. This situation may change the tasks for the Conservancy Board.

Mike agrees that communications, operational procedures and organizational issues need to be looked at. There aren't any exact qualifications for positions on any of the ABCs. All residents can apply for these volunteer positions. Then the BOS asks about their background and interests to see where they may fit. He was appointed to fill in a BOS term for this year. The BOS serve for 6 years, have multiple meetings to attend and have to be prepared to discuss many different issues.

Russell Miller looked up Sandy's current employment on his phone and commented that it says "family law". Sandy gave him all of her educational background and all the areas of law she serves in including environmental.

Mike spoke about all the people who volunteer in East Goshen. There is much more involvement with residents on a local level than on the State or Federal level and these ABCs help the BOS by making recommendations.

Mr. Miller commented that he was trying to understand how the CB members' background will help them understand the NLT report.

Debbie Williams, 1524 High Meadow Ln – Asked if the NLT will meet with them to get their input. Mike commented that they may meet with the residents after the report is done. Sometimes they make a public presentation.

Mr. Miller commented that the EPA has requirements for retention basins.

Mary Ellen Miller contacted Penn State and they do studies at no cost.

Since this part of the meeting was done, at 8:25 pm Walter moved to suspend the meeting. Pattie seconded the motion. The motion passed. At 8:30 pm Walter moved to continue the meeting. Patti seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sandy led a discussion about the BOS and Conservancy Board meetings and issues discussed.

Walter made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they abide by the recommendations of the entity tasked with the study of the ponds. The Conservancy Board recommends no changes be made to the present landscape at the Barker pond in Marydell. If removal of the trees is suggested, the Conservancy Board recommends a Fall or Spring removal. Patti seconded the motion.

Discussion: Sandy appreciates all the comments however, she feels that no one gave an ecological detriment that the trees would do to the pond. Andy spoke about other obstacles in the area that could be dangerous besides the trees. Paul Diorio agreed that no one has given an ecological reason to take them out. He thinks the benefits of shading is very small. After discussion of dredging and retention basins, a unanimous vote was taken on the above motion.

Clymers Woods – Walter mentioned that Mark Miller notified him that the wood chips have been delivered. Also, Jason has some people who want to do community service.

**Correspondence** – Sandy read the email from Gail Libondici of the West Chester Garden Club. They have some extra Bottlebrush Buckeye plants and want to know if the CB wants to plant them in the park.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Walter moved to adjourn the meeting. Erich seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting will be July 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer  
Recording Secretary