

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2017
FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Marty Shane; Supervisors Charles (Chuck) Proctor and Mike Lynch; Township Manager Rick Smith; Conservancy Board members Erich Meyer and Walter Wujick; and Supervisor-Elect David Shuey.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Marty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Marty called for a moment of silence to honor our troops and the victims of the recent shootings in other states.

Hershey Mill Estates Pond

Marty announced that East Goshen Township has six ponds and the Board has contracted with Natural Lands to perform an assessment and provide recommendations on what can be done to improve the health of each of the ponds.

The Township is in receipt of the draft pond study, which is being presented at three separate meetings at which public comments will be solicited. Once all comments have been received, Natural Lands will prepare and provide the Township with the final study which will be sent to the Conservancy Board for their review, comment, and recommendation. Marty expected that the Board of Supervisors would be in a position to make a decision on how to move forward in the second quarter of 2018.

He concluded by stating the purpose of tonight's meeting was for a presentation by Rick Tralies of Natural Lands on the Hershey Mill Estates Pond.

Rick Tralies stated he was a landscape architect with Natural Lands, which is a non-profit organization that manages over 43 nature preserves, the closest being the Willisbrook Preserve in Willistown Township. He noted that for this project, Natural Lands subcontracted with Toth Brothers, Clearing and Dredging, Inc. to assess the levels of sediment in the ponds, and with Aquascapes Unlimited for plantings. In addition, the Township hired the Brandywine Science Center to perform water tests.

Rick Tralies noted that ponds do not occur naturally in this area and that all of the Township's ponds accept stormwater runoff from a suburban environment. In addition, we have learned that the past stormwater management practice of collecting all of the runoff and putting it into a big retention basin and metering it out slowly does not work very well.

Rick Trailies then described three general recommendations which would improve the health of the Township's ponds:

- Reduce Phosphorous and Nitrogen Levels
- Increase Dissolved Oxygen Levels
- Reduce Sediment Levels

These recommendations can be accomplished by installing a vegetated buffer around the ponds, converting turf grass to meadows in areas that drain to the ponds, planting additional trees and shrubs around the ponds, installing inlet filter bags, limiting fertilizer usage, planting aquatic plants in the ponds, installing rain gardens and rain barrels, installing a forebay at each pond, reducing the geese population, and educating residents what they can do to improve the health of the ponds.

Rick Trailies noted that the reduction of the sediment level in the ponds can only be accomplished by dredging since most of the ponds are filled with sediment. However, he emphasized that the above steps need to be taken in conjunction with the dredging for the overall health of the ponds going forward.

With regard to the Hershey Mill Estates Pond specifically, Rick Trailies recommended that it should be dredged and that the Township should implement steps to reduce the levels of phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment entering into the pond and educate the residents what they can do.

Marty suggested educating residents to use less fertilizer.

Mike noted that dredging was a big ticket item and that we would also need to implement those measures designed to prevent sediment from getting into a pond in the future.

Chuck felt that filter bags would be very labor intensive to maintain.

In response to a question about the spoils from the dredging, Rick advised that it would have to be trucked off site from the Hershey Mill Estates Pond.

Dick McCabe, 1205 Burning Bush Lane, asked about the size of the drainage area. Rick stated it extends north to King Road.

Julie Calmon, 1549 Tanglewood Drive, asked when the pond was last dredged. Rick Smith stated that the pond was constructed in the 1980s and it has never been dredged.

Wayne Hall, 1523 Tanglewood Drive, asked if the sediment could be used at the Hershey Mill Dam project. Rick Smith said it would require additional engineering and delay that project.

Dick McCabe asked if the silt was hazardous. Rick Smith advised that the sediment in the Hershey Mill Dam was tested and it was suitable for use as a clean fill according to PA DEP.

Rick Tralies told the residents about a pond of similar size in West Goshen that was surrounded by trees with vegetated banks.

Dick McCabe asked if we could get help from property owners upstream from the pond. Marty noted that the drainage area included the Lochwood Chase development as well as property owned by Immaculata and an apartment complex.

Dick McCabe asked in what order the ponds would be done. Marty advised that had not been determined.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Smith
Township Manager