

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
MARYDELL POND COMMITTEE MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019
FINAL APPROVED MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Jim Williams; Vice Chair Russ Miller; Members Michelle Guinan, Debbie Williams, Mary Ellen Miller, Kate Minshall, Jeff O'Donnell and Scott Rainsford; Erich Meyer (Chairman, Conservancy Board); Andy Tyler (Conservancy Board); Nate Cline (Township Engineer) and Assistant Township Manager Jon Altshul.

Jon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance and called for a moment of silence to honor our troops.

Jon reported that the Marydell Pond project finished last year \$139,000 over budget due to the substantial challenges in dredging during the very wet fall. However, he reported that he has been working with Mark Miller to carefully monitor vehicle rental costs planned for 2019 and that he feels comfortable that the equipment rental, when combined the cost of the landscaping plan will come in right at the 2019 budget levels.

Jim stated that he had spoken with a number of neighbors regarding the pond and that he had received positive feedback and that he hadn't heard any disappointment about the delays. Michelle asked what the wooden mats were for, and Nate explained that they were to avoid damaging the earth with heavy equipment, similar to building a temporary road. Jeff asked whether any recent work had been done on site, and Nate indicated that the Township's electrician had recently been on site.

Jon and Nate explained that given the weather conditions, under the best case scenario, the Township will begin dredging in late spring or early summer, which would allow for most of the plantings to occur before the end of 2019, provided that the weather cooperates.

Michelle asked about when kids would be able to fish in the pond again. Nate indicated that the pumps would be turned off and the pond would naturally replenish itself once the dredging is complete. Discussion ensued about whether the pond would be restocked with fish. Jeff indicated that bass, sunfish and bluegills would be viable fish species for the pond and would control mosquitos and flies. Jim suggested that Natural Lands be contacted about the best fish species for the pond. Jon indicated that he would follow up on restocking the pond with Mark Miller and report back to the committee by email.

Russ made a motion to adopt the minutes of October 29, 2018. Jeff seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

The committee reviewed the draft landscaping plan originally presented at the October 29, 2018, meeting. Jon indicated that the Township now had sufficient boulders in its Public Works yard to cut the boulder budget in half, bringing the total cost of the landscaping plan down to approximately \$40,000. The committee also reiterated that it was opposed to street trees along Barker Drive, and Nate agreed to update the slides with the trees removed. Jon and Nate agreed to touch base next week to update the materials, including cutting some of the unnecessary slides so that the landscaping plan would be easier to present and follow along with at the March 7th meeting. Jon also agreed to provide a slide or slides outlining the timeline on the project, from the original concerns about the trees raised two years ago to the eventual implementation of the landscaping plan. Jim and Russ indicated that they'd like to do a "dry run" of the presentation on Monday, March 4th.

Kate raised concerns about the spring house and asked whether the entrance could be gated the same way that the spring house in Applebrook Park is gated to prevent vandalism and neighborhood teens from using the structure to engage in illegal or inappropriate behavior. Jon indicated that this would not be a problem. Kate also asked about whether the small wooden footbridge that goes over a marshy area on the southeastern corner of the pond would be moved and/or rebuilt. Nate indicated that the footbridge may not be necessary once the inlet pipes are moved back, but that that decision could be made later. Debbie asked about whether benches could be installed. Jon indicated that decisions about smaller amenities like benches could be deferred until after the planting is complete. He also noted that there is a way for residents to donate park benches via Friends of East Goshen.

Kate made a motion to authorize the sending of the draft letter to Marydell residents inviting them to the March 7th meeting, as corrected. Jeff seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Concern was raised about dangers that a dredged pond could pose for residents, particularly children and teenagers who may attempt to illegally ice skate or swim in the soon-to-be-deeper pond. Jon suggested that the Township purchase a number of signs for placement around the pond stating that swimming and ice skating are prohibited. Jon also agreed to contact the Township's insurance broker regarding any additional best practices for the dredged pond with regard to mitigating future risk.

Discussion ensued about the role of the committee in overseeing and assisting Public Works in the location of plantings. Jim, Mary Ellen, Kate, Debbie, Jeff and Erich Meyer agreed to meet with Public Works to discuss staking and/or locating various plantings. Jon agreed to calendar this issue for mid-September to ensure that this group can find a mutually agreeable time to meet with Mark Miller prior to Public Works commencing planting. In addition, the committee agreed to meet again in late 2019 or early 2020 to develop a long-term maintenance plan with the Township.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Jeff made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm. Russ seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Altshul

Recording Secretary