

**PIPELINE TASK FORCE MEETING  
THURSDAY, November 12, 2020  
TELE CONFERENCE  
FINAL MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Caroline Hughes, Chair; Bill Wegemann, Vice Chair; Members: Judi DiFonzo; Christina Morley, Gerry Sexton

**Others Present**

David Shuey, Township Supervisor; Rick Smith, Township Manager

**COMMON ACRONYMS:**

<i>ACOE</i>	<i>Army Core of Engineers</i>
<i>BI&amp;E</i>	<i>Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement</i>
<i>BOS</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors</i>
<i>CCATO</i>	<i>Chester County Association of Township Officials</i>
<i>DCNR</i>	<i>Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</i>
<i>DEP</i>	<i>Department of Environmental Protection</i>
<i>EGT</i>	<i>East Goshen Township</i>
<i>EGSEA</i>	<i>East Goshen Safety and Environmental Advocates</i>
<i>ET</i>	<i>Energy Transfer Company</i>
<i>FOI</i>	<i>Freedom of Information</i>
<i>HDD</i>	<i>Horizontal Directional Drilling</i>
<i>IR</i>	<i>Inadvertent Return</i>
<i>ME1</i>	<i>Mariner East 1</i>
<i>ME2</i>	<i>Mariner East 2</i>
<i>PHMSA</i>	<i>Pipeline Hazard Materials and Safety Administration</i>
<i>PUC</i>	<i>Public Utility Commission</i>
<i>TF</i>	<i>Task Force</i>

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Caroline called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silence**

Caroline called for a moment of silence our first responders, active military and veterans.

**Recording**

The meeting is recorded to the cloud via Zoom meeting settings.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from October 22, 2020, were unanimously approved as amended.

**Public Comment**

Russ Frank, referring to the November 10<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting, stated that he supports the TF's views in reference to the whistleblower report and feels that the BOS should approve to pay to have the separate investigation done on the subsidence area.

Lex Pavlo supported Russ' comment stating he was stunned that further analysis is not being done at this time as it is important to public safety.

Ron Cocco thanked the TF for their time and effort in representing Township residents. He expressed concerned that he has witnessed for the last 2 weeks multiple grout and vac trucks around the New Kent site. Rick explained that this is part of the normal pipeline construction operations. Rick continued that based on his conversation with Sunoco representatives, voids in the ground can occur between the casings and outside of the pipe. To avoid future problems, Sunoco fills these holes with grout.

Joe Larkin also agreed with Russ and Lex stating that he finds it shocking that further investigation is not being done at this time.

Bernard also supported the previous comments stating that this would be money well spent to find out if the subsidence is serious.

Melissa DiBernardino said she was also concerned about the amount of time grout and vac trucks were at the New Kent site.

#### **Update on Whistleblower Complaint**

Caroline stated that she feels an investigation of the subsidence is paramount. The Township cannot rely on state agencies to have East Goshen's best interest in mind and move quickly with information. An investigation will either prove there is no threat / problem, or it will prove that there is a problem that supports the whistleblowers' report.

Rick gave an update on what is being done as listed on the East Goshen Township [webpage](#). He added that the Township has been in communication with PennDOT. He has requested copies of any reports that are done. David stated that he has been in contact with state and county reps for assistance. He has been advised that the county cannot help us financially because they are facing the same fiscal challenges as local municipalities. The Township has not yet heard back from PennDOT. Representative Comitta's office is requesting that PennDOT excavate the site of the subsidence.

Christina questioned the method of excavating the site to which Rick explained that this is the typical way the Township investigates this type of problem.

Melissa thanked the TF for their work and said she is upset and frustrated by the Board's response from the 11/10 meeting. She feels that the whistleblower information is more credible than any information received to date. The Township could make a public statement and ask Sunoco to pay for the study.

Bill referenced a DCNR report about sinkholes that Christina provided. He also referenced the September 2020 HDD report that was mailed by Sunoco to residents that live within 450 feet of the pipeline. Based on the facts from these reports, the Pipeline TF should recommend immediately that a study be done by an independent geologist.

Judi provided the link to the [DCNR document](#) and stated that page 13 illustrates how a sink hole happens and why there is concern about a depression in the ground.

([http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1752495&DocName=ES11\\_Sinkholes\\_Pa.pdf](http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1752495&DocName=ES11_Sinkholes_Pa.pdf))

David raised the question to the TF if the request to PennDOT to excavate the site should be withdrawn.

Gerry suggested that the digging should not occur until after the geologist report was complete. It was the consensus of the TF to not have PennDOT excavate the subsidence. David will talk with Representative Comitta to hold off on this request.

Caroline made a motion to obtain two (2) verbal estimates from Paul Rubin at HydroQuest Environmental Consulting, to perform a thorough geological analysis and subsurface mapping of 1) the area of the subsidence and 2) the area of HDD 500 (New Kent to just south past the 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance of Bow Tree). Bill seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0. Bill will make the initial call to Paul Rubin to talk about the proper testing technique needed. It was noted that this testing would have to be done in the PennDOT right-of-way or with the permission from the landowner.

Christina introduced information about Pennsylvania code, Title 42 - Matters Affecting Government Units. She noted that sections 85.22 & 85.42 refer to sovereign immunity and exceptions. She plans to do more investigation.

### **New Business**

#### **Legislative Updates**

Bill reported that the following local election results:

- Carolyn Comitta will be the State Senator of the 19<sup>th</sup> District
- Diane Herrin will be the Representative of the 156<sup>th</sup> District
- John Kane will be the State Senator of the 9<sup>th</sup> District

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan D'Amore*

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