

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Annual Planning Session
Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

The Board of Supervisors held their Annual Planning Session with the Township ABCs on Tuesday January 26, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was held via Zoom conferencing.

Those in attendance were:

Board of Supervisors

David Shuey, Chairman
Marty Shane
Michael Lynch
Michele Truitt
John Hertzog

Pipeline Task Force

Caroline Hughes
Bill Wegemann
Christina Morley
Gerald Sexton
Jim Christenson

Township Staff Members

Rick Smith, Township Manager
Mark Gordon, Zoning Officer
Mark Miller, Director of Public Works
Jason Lang, Director of Parks and Recreation
Chris Boylan, Interim Finance Director
Susan D'Amore, Office Administrator

Planning Commission

Ernest Harkness
John Stipe

Futurist Committee

Tom Kilburn
Brian Sweet

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Christi Supple
Kelly Markus
Kipp Happ
Tom Kilburn
Bryan Hutchinson

Municipal Authority

Dana Pizarro
Kevin Cummings
Phil Mayer
Walter Wujcik

Conservancy Board

Walter Wujcik

Park and Recreation Commission

Daniel Leicht
Kishor Thakarar
Jessica Bottaro
Karen Battavio

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

David called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and asked Marty to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a moment of silence to remember our police, fire fighters, EMS, healthcare providers and military, who go into harm's way every day to our benefit.

1. Futurist Committee, Tom Kilburn, Chairman

Before I discuss the Futurist Committee accomplishments for 2020, outlook for 2021 and vision for the longer term, I'd like to recognize the other members of our committee. Rod Vaughn has been an integral part of the committee since its inception nearly 7 years ago and helped define The Futurist's charter. Brian Sweet and Brandon Groff joined the committee in 2019 and Jeff O'Donnell came on board earlier this year. Our newer members have added and energized our committee with a welcome fresh perspective. I also want to thank Susan for all she has done for our committee.

As we continue to look to the future, our committee has spent the last several years researching and evaluating trends in forward thinking about communities with attributes similar to ours. We have found much research by experts regarding what communities need to do to prepare for the changes in technology, lifestyles, and demographics that we will likely experience over the next 10-20 years.

One issue is clear and the pandemic we are experiencing today further substantiates this issue. Technological change is moving so much faster than most people's ability to adapt to these changes. Lifestyles are undergoing changes as significant technologies take hold and provide us with ever changing ways to work, communicate, shop and travel. Who would have predicted just a year ago that we would be having this annual meeting now via Zoom or that most of the people on this call would have been working from home very effectively a majority of the time this past year.

During the last several years our committee has looked at a number of areas and gathered and analyzed much data on the Township. We have looked at demographics, diversity of housing stock, and financial sustainability just to name a few. We made comparisons with neighboring communities as well as leading communities nationally. What did we find? East Goshen is well positioned in a wide number of ways. We have excellent schools, attractive neighborhoods and diverse housing. We have proximity to a large and growing labor market, a diverse tax base, and well managed township government. We have an interesting history, numerous restored buildings, a new multi-use trail bisecting our community, nationally recognized parks and programs, and much more. That may be the reason so many residents don't see a need for any change. But, we can build on what we have and be even better.

Our committee believes that what East Goshen lacks is a strong Township identity and some of the amenities many other premier communities offer. We believe the Paoli Pike corridor between Boot Road and Rte. 352 offers the opportunity to provide these amenities and this identity. We feel long term private redevelopment opportunities could significantly improve this area. The area already includes our attractive Township building.

This area has had some new construction over the last 30 years but little activity since 2000. Redevelopment into shops, restaurants or specialty businesses is most likely to happen in the area east of the Township building. The area includes a vacant property, a single-family home between 2 commercial properties and one or two other sites whose potential value is not being realized. With the Paoli Pike Trail complete and added walkability to this area, we expect to see redevelopment interest here.

Since these properties are privately owned, the Futurists' focus is in having these properties redeveloped in a way that adds amenities to the Township while maintaining the character of the Township and its history. It is doubtful that redevelopment will require additional township

resources and it is likely that by improving these properties, the Township will benefit from higher tax revenue. It is also likely that surrounding businesses will benefit from higher foot traffic thus creating more sustainability to our central business area.

Three years ago, Township residents overwhelmingly voted to approve wine, beer and liquor sales in the Township. A majority of Township residents appear ready to embrace change. In July, we presented our vision for the future of East Goshen to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). That vision is:

...to differentiate East Goshen Township in positive ways compared to other townships in eastern Chester County in a way that:

- creates welcoming key road portals with attractive landscaping, warm lighting and signage that reflects the Township's history and future hopes
- Connects our neighborhoods, central Township area, schools and parks with a network of multi-use trails.
- Expands our already acclaimed recreational and activities programs
- Creates a central Township area with a strong sense of identity as a "gathering place".

This area would include green space and public plazas, restaurants and specialty shops, and a modest amount of housing that appeals to buyers seeking new housing options. The area would have street trees and warm lighting similar to our beautiful neighborhoods.

We make these recommendations so that the Township will have an even brighter future and always be viewed as a premier community with excellent housing, public amenities and excellent schools for families seeking a new home.

The BOS tabled endorsing this vision until they could have an in-person meeting likely later this year.

Moving back to more immediate issues, we started off the year with an objective to establish and reach out to neighborhood leadership groups to gather feedback on what residents want to see or not see in East Goshen. Since in-person meetings were not allowed after COVID hit in mid-March, we had to rethink our approach without giving up our objective to receive widespread feedback. After reviewing a comprehensive township-wide mailed survey that Willistown completed last year and considering the cost of such an effort, we decided on a more limited scope. We presented the concept of a fairly simple digital survey to the BOS last week and received approval to move forward. The objectives of the first survey are to: 1) understand the issues most important to residents and 2) understand how residents feel East Goshen Township rates regarding key issues. Brandon Groff is leading this effort and his employer, Inc-Query, is offering their platform pro bono to build the survey that residents can take digitally. We plan to roll out this survey through a wide range of media to insure we receive a representative sample of resident views. We will share the results with all residents. After we can once again resume face-to-face meetings, we hope to start our neighborhood meetings, as we feel face-to-face, give and take is an important part of the feedback process. We initiated another project late in 2019 to complete an analysis of the long-term viability of our business parks. The Business Parks provide 17% of East Goshen's tax revenue. This makes the Business Parks a key part of East Goshen's long term financial sustainability. During this year we developed a checklist of information we would need to collect from each business in order to assess their long-term viability. We also started a data base on key information for each business that could be updated easily to keep this information current. As you know, the

Township will be losing a key historical knowledge source in all areas this summer when Rick Smith retires. He is a wealth of knowledge in addition to exercising tremendous judgement performing his leadership duties. We feel his knowledge of the Business Parks and their history needs to be documented. Parallel to our efforts, the Planning Commission had been working on the future of the Business Parks also. In the Fall, they recommended we join forces with BOS direct involvement to form a Business Parks Task Force. This would add more urgency to this critical effort. The Business Parks Task Force was kicked off earlier this month with Brian Sweet and Jeff O'Donnell representing the Futurist Committee. They are targeting to have recommendations for maintaining strong viable business parks to the BOS for consideration by the 4th quarter of this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the Futurist's results for 2020 as well as our outlook for 2021 and beyond.

2. Municipal Authority – Dana Pizarro, Chairman

Dana recognized the other members of the Authority, Jack Yahraes, Walter Wujcik, Kevin Cummings, and Phil Mayer. He also recognized Mark Miller, Public Works Director; Mike Lynch, Supervisor; Michael Ellis, Pennoni Associates Engineer; Patrick McKenna, Esq. and Robert Jefferson, Esq. (Gawthrop Greenwood); and Scott Towler, Big Fish Environmental.

Dana explained that the Municipal Authority, which is a legally separate entity from the Township, is responsible for financing the construction, expansion and upgrade of the Township's sewage collection and treatment infrastructure.

Beginning in 2019 all sewer capital purchases are made through the Municipal Authority, with transfers from the Sewer Operating Fund for both general operating costs and new capital assets and the Sewer Capital Reserve for replacement capital assets. Previously only the MA's operating costs and selected capital expenses were borne by the Municipal Authority.

2020 Goals –

- Continue to monitor the upgrades at West Goshen Sewer Treatment Plant.
Members to attend meetings – Completed
Westtown Way Pumping Station – EGT share is estimated at \$1.65 million; ongoing monitoring of design and construction cost estimates.
- Continue to implement the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) Plan for the Sewer System- on-going
 - Asset Management Program / Indicator of Pipe Structural issues/Ridley Creek and Chester Creek Systems
 - In concert with Public Works cleaning and televising
 - Public works provided 3,400 man hours of service to MA
 - Completed 103,000 feet of cleaning and televising
 - 16 significant I&I repairs to remove 100,000 gallons
- Continue to operate the Sewer Treatment Plant in compliance with PADEP permit requirements – Met monthly permit requirements all year
- Implement Planned Projects Program
 - Ridley Creek Sewer Treatment Plant
 - o Emergency generator replacement - \$150,000 deferral from 2019 Completed.

- Caustic Soda Project to improve worker safety and efficiency at the plant. \$37,000 (\$190,000; received \$153,000 DCED grant). Received final paperwork; anticipated start date Spring 2021.
- Pump Stations
 - Hershey's Mill Pump Station generator replacement - \$45,000 deferral from 2019; Completed
 - Hunt Country Pump Station Mag Meter replacement - \$15,000 deferral from 2019
 - Hunt Country Pump Station Muffin Monster replacement - \$67,000 deferral from 2019
 - Hunt Country Pump Station Bypass Pump - \$99,435 carryover
- Sewer System
 - Two (2) New Ridley Creek Sewer System Permanent Flow Meters - \$55,000 carryover.

2021 Goals

- Continue to monitor the upgrades at west Goshen Sewer Treatment Plant. Members to attend meetings.
 - Westtown Way Pump Station – EGT share estimated at \$1.65 million; ongoing monitoring of design and construction cost estimates.
- Continue to implement the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) Plan for the sewer system-ongoing.
 - Asset Management Program/Indicator of Pipe Structural Issues/Ridley Creek and Chester Creek systems
 - In concert with Public Works Cleaning & Televising
- Continue to operate the Sewer Treatment Plant in compliance with PADEP permit requirements.
- Hershey Mill Estates Truck Sewer Replacement – Emergency
 - Investigation on-going near term; significant foundation issues, planned consultation with PADEP; anticipating near term design solution.
 - Public Works may undertake emergency construction for replacement of critical section
- Implement Planned Projects Program
 - Ridley Creek Sewer Treatment Plant
 - Caustic Soda Project to improve worker safety and efficiency at the plant - \$37,000
 - Influent Flow Meter - \$22,000
 - Filter Feed Pump - \$18,000 deferral from 2020
 - Pump Stations
 - Hunt Country Pump Station Mag Meter - \$15,000 deferral from 2019
 - Hunt Country Pump Station Muffin Monster - \$67,000 deferral from 2019
 - Hunt Country Pump Station Bypass Pump Connection - \$5,000 carryover from 2019
 - Sewer System

- Three (3) new Ridley Creek Collection System Permanent Flow Meters – deferral from 2019. Hibberd La. Meter (2020 Capital Purchase) construction started January 12, 2021. Other 2 meters (\$24,000 each) deferred to 2022 and 2023.

Comments:

Mike Lynch commented on the work and care of the plant and infrastructure that everyone involved does.

David commented that the Township has 45 miles of sewer lines. All involved do a great job.

3. Park & Recreation Commission

2020 Accomplishments – Jason Lang – Director of Parks & Recreation

- Successfully navigated changing park usage during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Only the trail was open until June 2020. Most uses for rest of 2020.
- Park use was up 30% (trails, tennis/pickleball, basketball) People considered the park as part of their home.
- Weekday outdoor meeting space increased dramatically (scouts, mental health groups, Philly Pastel Society Art Gallery etc.) Groups wanted to meet so they made changes so they could use the park.
- Outdoor dance recitals, Chester County Concert Band practice in the park.
- Doggie bag use was up 400%!!
- East Goshen was the only West Chester area municipality to host summer camp. It was held in the park and he spoke about all that was done to meet COVID standards. There were no COVID cases and the kids had a great time.
- East Goshen Parks and Rec at home. He held many virtual events so people could participate from home.
- Diana Dickson was named “Stay at Home Teacher of the Year 2020”.
- SE PA Teen Filmmakers Showcase was virtual. Received 1,098 submissions from 200 countries. The event was increased to a two day virtual event for 2020. One night was COVID night where others from around the world could relate how it affected them.
- Aarushi Jain was named “Parks and Recreation Volunteer of the Year 2020”. She is headed to UPenn in the fall.
- East Goshen was named the NRPA Gold Medal Finalist community again- first in PA.
- Paoli Pike Trail is open. Programming to start in 2021, i.e. Art Walks, Bike events. Jason can see people and children walking to school on the trail from his office.
- 2020 End of Year Report is on the Township website.

2021 Goals – Daniel Leicht, Chairman, commented that he is blessed to work with the members of this Commission who love what they do.

- Prepare the Park for post COVID-19 programming.
- Implement plan for 2021 Full Day summer camp program at Glen Acres Elementary (PROS).
- Promote, program and monitor Paoli Pike Trail usage.

- Formalize the Park and Rec “Volunteer of the Year” program. They hope it brings out more volunteers to help at events.
- Offer nature and art focused programming. Nature Warriors with WC Garden Club; Photography Shop to offer filmmaking and photo camps; Young Rembrandts to offer youth art programming; PPT Art Walk with Chesco Art Assoc. (PROS).
- Host West Chester University’s Carnival of Ruin, a theatrical performance with sustainability at its core.
- Fellow ABCs – consider yourself challenged at this year’s Pumpkin Festival to carve a pumpkin!!!

Comments

David commented that because of the pandemic we found out how critical Park & Recreation was this past year.

Michele Truitt mentioned that she attended many of the events that Jason held and the residents are very appreciative.

Jason mentioned that from his office window on weekdays he sees teenagers riding bikes from the Dunkin Donuts to the park. Adults are walking or jogging.

4. East Goshen Township Pipeline Task Force – Caroline Hughes, Chairman

Caroline thanked Jason and Park and Recreation Commission. The park was a place where they could all go.

2020 Achievements

1. Advocated for clear, documented communication with the public when disseminating pipeline related information.
2. Made recommendations to improve safety and setbacks for the TND Ordinance.
3. Collaborated with other ABC committees to craft well informed recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
4. Submitted public comments to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regarding proposed rulemaking for natural gas and hazardous liquids pipelines.
5. Continued advocacy regarding enforcement of the EGT Noise Ordinance, resulting in citations to Sunoco for repeated violations.
6. Advised the BOS regarding the progression of the Adelphia pipeline approval and impacts to East Goshen Township.
7. Hosted discussions with Senator Katie Muth, whose area includes Marsh Creek, and her COS Don Vymazal, formerly a staffer for Senator Andy Dinniman regarding advocating at the state level for pipeline safety and resident protection.
8. Provided recommendations to the Board regarding the subsidence in East Goshen.
9. Facilitated the hiring of an independent geologist expert.
10. Communicated with elected officials, advocating for meaningful pipeline legislation that promotes safety and increased regulation. House Bill 2293 passed, which will increase transparency for emergency planning for first responders related to pipelines. It is the first bill of this type in PA.

Priorities for 2021

1. Increase communication to residents regarding pipeline related issues, distilling complex information into easy-to-understand formats for the public.

2. Expand relationships with other Township ABC groups; serving as a resource for pipeline related information; forging pathways of communication where issues intersect.
3. Recruiting new members for the Pipeline Task Force as well as expanding the culture of safety awareness within the Township.
4. Continuing outreach and relationship building with area elected officials at the local, state and federal levels.
5. Working with the Township legal staff and consultants to explore additional legal protections for the Township.
6. Research and work on the ability to develop an alert/evacuation plan specific to EGT.

Comments

Mike Lynch commented that this was an outstanding report. He thanked the members of the Task Force for establishing communications and doing research.

Marty Shane mentioned that the only thing left to be done by Sunoco is from Bow Tree to Ss. Simon & Jude Church on West Chester Pike. He feels there may be as many complaints of the restoration as there was while Sunoco was working. Has the Task Force thought about their part in the restoration?

Caroline feels it should be on their agenda. The property owners can't plant things or put fences near the pipeline so there won't be restoration back to what it was. It is going to be a problem. Maybe the Township should list what can be put back.

Marty commented that the Township doesn't get involved in easements. It is between the two parties. He feels the Task Force and BOS should have a meeting to discuss this.

5. Planning Commission – Ernest Harkness, Chairman

Ernest thanked the members of the Commission who have been busy this year. He especially thanked Mark Gordon and his staff for all they do.

Significant Accomplishments for 2020

- Reviewed Variance for 1137 N. Chester Road
- Reviewed Land Development for Synthes USA, 1303 Goshen Parkway
- Reviewed Solar Ordinance Amendment
- Reviewed Variance for 1631 Strasburg Road
- Partnered with the Futurist Committee to recommend a Business Park Task Force to review the future of East Goshen Business Parks. The Task Force was approved by the BOS and kickoff meeting was scheduled for January 2021.
- The following Comprehensive Plan Implementation Strategies were completed:
 - Objective 6.1 & 6.2 to develop the Town Center and Paoli Pike Corridor – Completed and sent to BOS for action
 - Objective 6.3 Transforming the West Chester Pike Corridor into a more functional and attractive artery. On hold due to budget restraints.
 - Objective 7.2 Promoting the enhancement of business opportunities along the West Chester Pike Corridor. On hold due to budget restraints.
 - Objective 9.1 Maintaining and expanding the Open Space, Recreation and Trails Network – In progress, continuing into 2021.

- Objective 9.2 Developing the Paoli Pike Trail to create the linkage between West Chester and Malvern, through East Goshen, from West Goshen to Willistown. In progress, continuing into 2021.
- Reviewed potential ordinance changes with the objective of improving Pipeline Safety with Land Use Planning in the future.

Goals for 2021

- Continue to support the Board of Supervisors with the following Comprehensive Plan Implementing Strategies:
 - Objective 9.1 Maintaining and expanding the Open Space, Recreation and Trails Network.
 - Objective 9.2 Developing the Paoli Pike Trail to create the linkage between West Chester and Malvern, through East Goshen, from West Goshen to Willistown.
 - Objective 6.3 Transforming the West Chester Pike Corridor into a more functional and attractive artery. Begin high level discussions.
 - Objective 7.2 Promote the enhancement of business opportunities along the West Chester Pike corridor. Begin high level discussions.
- Finalize recommendations for Pipeline Safety and Land Use Planning and present to the Board of Supervisors in early 2021.
- Support BOS request to review existing township Zoning Ordinances for possible revision and updates. Comp Plan Objective 6.4 Business Park Task Force shall address the BP and I Districts. The Planning Commission shall focus on the remaining districts.

Comments

David mentioned that the Pipeline Task Force and the Planning Commission had a meeting. Will there be a final meeting before bringing it to the BOS? Ernest answered yes.

6. Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) – Christi Supple, Chairman

Christi thanked all the volunteers and township staff and other members of SAC. She also thanked any residents who might be on this call. She commented that David Shuey started this Committee and Michele Truitt is their Liaison.

Projects accomplished in 2020:

1. 8 Zoom seminars for residents. They are available on UTube.
2. Participation in COG Green Energy Committee
3. Participation in multi-township Clean Energy Transition project
4. Initiation of Gardener Laureate Program. Philip Watson, a QVC host, has accepted the position of the Township’s 1st Gardener Laureate.
5. Recommendation for installation of car chargers on Township property
6. Recommendation for installation of solar panels on Township roofs
7. Suggestions for sustainable practices in newsletter inserts

Projects initiated in 2020:

1. Encouragement of local businesses to install car chargers
2. Recycling of pens, markers, and crayons, etc.
3. Review of local and regional ordinances on sustainable issues

4. Analysis of waste management data
5. Program for ongoing education of residents through Twitter, Instagram, EGT emails and possibly a monthly newsletter

Projects contemplated for 2021:

1. Ongoing seminars for residents on webinar and zoom platforms
2. Implementation of a range of projects proposed by our new Gardener Laureate
3. Encouragement of local businesses to purchase electric and hybrid vehicles
4. Recycling of all types of plastics through Terracycle program
5. Implementation of recommendations by COG Green Energy Committee regarding residential solar installs through group purchasing arrangements and rebate programs
6. Recommendations regarding ground solar arrays, small windmills, geothermal installs, and small water wheels on Township and private property
7. Proposal for a community garden and a community compost site
8. Through Gardener Laureate, introduction of more indigenous, native plantings
9. Exploration of having East Goshen designated an official Tree City (Township)

Christi mentioned that COG is starting commissions to help townships use clean energy as soon as possible. SAC will continue to offer seminars. They also want to recommend larger recycling bins with lids. They will also look into alternatives to insecticide spraying. She also thanked Tom Kilburn for his help.

Comments:

David commented that he learned more in the last 2 years about being greener. He thanked the SAC members for what they are doing.

Marty pointed out that David was the one who started the SAC and Pipeline committees. He thanked David.

7. Conservancy Board – Walter Wujcik, Chairman

Walter mentioned that the Conservancy Board Mission Statement is to protect and nurture East Goshen’s natural resources and educate East Goshen citizens of their importance.

2020 Accomplishments

1. Managed a successful Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day on October 3, 2020. This was postponed from April 8, 2020 because of COVID restrictions.
2. Continued maintenance of the blue bird houses in Applebrook Park. Walter thanked Board member Dan Flynn for taking care of this task.
3. Continued maintenance of Clymer’s Woods – reapplying wood chips around the trees. This was done on December 12, 2020. Originally a scout group was going to help but with new COVID restrictions they couldn’t come. Walter thanked Michele and Dan Truitt for their help.
4. Continued invasive species control in the parks. He spoke about the different invasive species that are in the parks.

Walter mentioned that they also reviewed the Tree & Street Tree ordinance.

2021 Goals

1. Manage a successful Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day – schedule to be confirmed based on COVID-19 restrictions. Tentative date is April 17, 2021. He explained that this event can’t be held in the summer because of poison ivy and insects.
2. Continue maintenance of blue bird houses in Applebrook Park.

3. Continue maintaining Clymer's Woods – replacing dead trees and reapplying wood chips around the trees.
4. Maintain the riparian buffer along the Township creeks.
5. Continue control of invasive plant species.
6. Continue assisting with the pond restoration projects as needed.

Comments:

David spoke about all of the open space, parks, etc. in the Township. He appreciates all that they do.

8. Business Park Task Force

Tom Kilburn mentioned this new Task Force in his report and explained the purpose.

Public Comments – None

Closing Comments:

1. Mike Lynch asked Walter Wujcik if stormwater basins can be improved aesthetically without compromising the design. Walter commented that they have looked at the basins in the past. He spoke about the Marydell pond and the pond study that was done. There was no funding in 2020 because of the pandemic so no plantings were done. The Conservancy Board is always open for suggestions.
2. John Stipe asked Dana Pizzaro if the treatment plant had more volume because people were staying home. Dana commented that there were some normal increases due to storms. Mike Lynch mentioned that there was odor at the spray irrigation in Hershey's Mill. This was due to the increase in cleaning chemicals people are using. It has been taken care of.
3. Christi Supple works for the Brandywine Conservancy and knows how they work with landowners of large properties. Since there are a few large properties in East Goshen, she feels we should connect them with the Conservancy. Walter commented that about 15 years ago a list was made. Rick remembers sending a letter but there was no response. Mike feels we should reach out again. Mark Gordon commented that a letter could be sent. Mike spoke about open space easements in East Bradford.
4. David mentioned the two critical positions that will have to be filled in 2021 – Director of Finance and Township Manager. Rick has been with the Township for 53 years. Jon Altshul did a great job of cross training his accounting staff. The BOS has hired a consultant to help with the search for replacements.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary