

**PIPELINE TASK FORCE WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, February 11, 2021  
TELE CONFERENCE  
FINAL MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

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

**Others Present**

David Shuey, Township Supervisor; Rick Smith, Township Manager; Ernie Harness, Planning Commission

**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 6:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silence**

Caroline called for a moment of silence for those in the service, those who lost their lives serving our country and for people battling COVID.

**Recording**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from January 28, 2021, were unanimously approved as amended.

## **Public Comment – None**

### **Chairperson’s Report**

Caroline reported:

- The County Commissioners hired an independent geotechnical engineering firm regarding the sink holes on Route 30. That firm reported that there are serious structural issues for the library building, and they are recommending a remedial process to prevent problems.
- Middletown Township is being sued by the owners of Glen Riddle Apartments for approving ME construction around the apartments.
- There is a company looking for volunteers who have a well and live along ME to have their well water tested for free test. Caroline will get more information regarding this. There was discussion about Township wells that are close to the pipeline boundary. Rick stated that at the beginning of the ME2 project all residents within 450 feet of pipeline received a letter regarding well water testing. Christina stated that the DCNR website has a list of PA well residents that can be download as an Excel spread sheet.
- Last month there was discussion regarding testing for bentonite. Caroline reported that that Middletown Township hired the company RJ Lee. She has contact information and samples of reports.

### **Legislative Update**

Caroline and Judi stated that there is a Virtual Meet & Greet with State Senators Comitta and Kane on Thursday, 2/25, from 6-7 pm hosted by Conservation Voters of PA, PennFuture and PennEnvironment.

Bill stated that he has contacted the offices of Senators Herrin and Kane to request an introductory call. He added that he is still in touch with Representative Comitta’s office.

### **Update on Dr. Ira Sasowsky's progress**

Bill explained that there is no new information regarding Dr. Sasowsky’s report since the last TF meeting. Rick and Bill stated that Dr. Sasowsky should be wrapping up within the next week.

### **Communication with Local Officials**

Caroline encouraged all TF members to reach out to Senators Herrin and Kane as constituents and as Pipeline TF members.

### **Liaisons with other ABCs**

Caroline stated that ABC liaisons are important in order to maintain a line of communication. Liaisons should review upcoming agendas and past minutes.

The following members volunteered to serve as liaisons:

Conservancy Board – Christina Hughes

Futurist – Jim Christenson

Planning Commission – Bill Wegemann

Sustainability Advisory Committee – Caroline Hughes and Judi DiFonzo

### **Reassess and redefine the Pipeline TF purpose / mission statement**

The TF discussed and compiled their mission statement which supports the TF duties and responsibilities as outlined in Resolution 2018-78.

Caroline made a motion to adopt the following as the Pipeline Task Force’s mission statement: *“Gather and provide pertinent information to the East Goshen Board of Supervisors while monitoring online and physical activity pertaining to the various pipelines and related proposed and current projects in our Township. To keep current on proposed regulation, ensure environmental compliance with the goal of advocating and educating our residents with safety always as a priority.”* Christina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Newsletter Article**

The TF reviewed the newsletter article draft that Judi provided. David suggested that the article include attributions to the source. It was also discussed that the word *product* should be replaced with *material*. Jim made a motion to approve the article submitted by Judi with the changes discussed and title it: ***Mariner East 101: The Basics***. Christina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Pipeline Awareness Study Ordinance**

Ernie Harkness from the Planning Commission was in attendance to address any questions about the Pipeline Awareness Study Ordinance that the Planning Commission has been working on. David stated that the Task Force should provide input to this ordinance prior to it going before the Board of Supervisors. Ernie stated that the Planning Commission and the Pipeline TF have been in communication regarding this ordinance.

Ernie explained that the intention of the ordinance is to provide landowners and developers awareness of the pipelines so that appropriate considerations can be made during the planning process of development. Per the ordinance when a pipeline study is developed, it would go to the Planning Commission and the BOS for evaluation. Resources such as the Pipeline TF, Emergency Management Personnel and the Fire Department would be utilized for this study review. The study will be triggered if there is an application for potential development near the pipeline.

There was discussion regarding the consultation zone and the setback area. Christina recommended that based on a PHMSA guideline that a site-specific number be calculated to determine the setback area. This would be for any proposed development near a pipeline. Ernie said that the Planning Commission entertained this idea but felt that the proposed 660 feet was a good balance.

Christina stated that Chester County uses 1,000 feet as the setback and asked if the Planning Commission could consider this. Caroline agreed that the Township should be consistent with the County. There was discussion about a discrepancy on what is the exact setback number that the county uses: 660 or 1000. Caroline will investigate the source for the 1,000 from the Chester County Planning Commission.

Caroline asked the TF to review for the next meeting both the Pipeline Awareness Study Ordinance and Uwchlan Township's Ordinance.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

The next meeting is Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan D'Amore*