

Longswamp Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Notes: 16 June 2008

Present:

EAC Members

Diana Erney

Dale Fandl

Katherine Harms

Mike Sacks

Judy Sechler

Cathi Kratzer, Planning Commission Rep

Also Present:

Maryann Lantz, Township Supervisor

Steve Wyka, Township Supervisor

Larry Lloyd, Berks County Conservancy

Call to Order: 6:03 PM

Chair's Comments:

Mike Sacks opened the meeting and then promptly turned it over to Larry Lloyd of the Berks County Conservancy.

Approval of Minutes from May Meeting: Approved, no changes.

Amendments to Agenda: None

Discussion Items:

1) Topic: Golden Meadows

Key Points of Discussion:

Larry Lloyd outlined the management plans for the Golden Meadows development for the benefit of the neighbors who were present. (A letter of invitation had been sent out prior to the meeting.) Mr. Lloyd said that the Berks County Conservancy (BCC) is now the owner of the property under conservation and is working with the PA DEP and the PA Fish & Boat commission. The BCC became the owner of the lot as part of the conservation easement which means that it will never be developed. The management plan is part of the easement.

Mr. Lloyd then reviewed the plan outline: Vernal pools are not to be disturbed. The plan for mowing is to manage the habitat for the species of concern and all of the species that use those pools. The intention is to create a combination of grasslands, trees and shrubs. The BCC has already planted some native species of trees. Trees were also included on the original subdivision plan map, so they changed the specifications to native species. Native species will be used when ever possible. They plan to mow during the dormant season. They'll probably mow in early April, then again to control Canada Thistle (a noxious weed) before

it flowers. They'll also use an herbicide impregnated wipe to spot treat as necessary.

Golden Meadows wasn't under the new Greener Growing ordinance recently adopted in the township; however, the habitat area will essentially act as a forerunner of that policy. There will be volunteers visiting the site to monitor the species; a pink banner will help the neighbors identify volunteers. Fish & Boat officials will also visit the site, and their vehicles should be marked.

There will be additional literature created to help the neighbors understand what things they can do on their own properties in order to support the BCC efforts on the property. There are also some plans to do water testing.

The fence that was recently put up was part of the subdivision plan and is intended to keep pets out of the area. There's also a gate installed. These are intended to keep people from driving over the site on 4-wheelers, etc.

Q from community re fence: What are the posts for?

A: To mark the property line. At some point, they'll probably install bird boxes on them.

Q: From community. Where are the property lines?

A: BCC has a very limited amount of road frontage on Kennedy Avenue, then there's a tree line to the south of the property, then on then the northern boundary, there's more housing coming in. More houses on the east, and on the west, there are stakes from the surveyor—there will be cemented monuments at some point.

Q: Is there only one road going into the development?

A: Mr. Lloyd cannot speak for the developer or the township.

Q: Has the developer discussed drainage?

A: The reason our lot is such an odd shape is in order to preserve the season pools. With the construction of new houses, the BCC will be taking rainwater from adjacent lots to recharge the groundwater which in turn feeds the vernal pools. The developer will handle the remainder of the stormwater drainage.

Q: Is there a date for breaking ground?

A: There are still revisions to be approved before they can break ground. The engineer is currently reviewing the revisions.

Q: Are they removing trees from the treeline?

A: Management plan only covers BCC property. Best to look at the subdivision plan and any DEP permits. There are conditions in there about the trees, but Mr. Lloyd is not privy to those because it's not on BCC property.

Q: How does township feel about the fact that the invitations said there would be a representative from the developer at this meeting?

A: Mr. Wyka said that they were told just today that there would be a representative here. All of the professionals in our township were told that that a representative would be here. Obviously, the supervisors are disappointed that didn't happen.

Q: Is the property off limits to the community?

A: When there's water in there, the BCC will be a bit more sensitive, but it's OK for people to walk the property. In fact, he hopes that eventually the neighbors will become more involved in monitoring the spadefoot toads.

Action: Mr. Lloyd invited the EAC and the community to contact him in the future with any questions or concerns. He's doing his best to diffuse concerns regarding the Canada Thistle/

2) Gypsy Moth Spraying

Key Points of Discussion: Berks County Conservation District is looking for someone to assist in monitoring for gypsy moth spraying.

Action: Cathi Kratzer took the later and will contact them.

2) Topic: Recycling Project

Key Points of Discussion: Tim Bollinger of the Lehigh County Recycling Center invited EAC member to tour their facility to see what sorts of things are happening. The visit is intended to help with discovery of information pertaining to a potential recycling project in Longswamp and possibly neighboring townships.

Action: Diana will follow up with Tim Bollinger to find out about potential dates, etc. Mike is on vacation from July 11-17th

3) Topic: Stream Crossing Sign Project

Key Points of Discussion: Steve sent the paperwork in.

Action: None required

4) Topic: Stormwater Management Plan for Perkiomen Creek Watershed

Key Points of Discussion: The Perkiomen Creek Watershed group is looking for representatives from all of the townships in the watershed. Longswamp has a very small area that is within the watershed.

Action: Kate Harms will act as representative with Cathi Kratzer acting as back up. Kate took the letter and will contact the LVPC.

5) Darree Sleicher is available to speak at the July meeting.

Action: Judy will follow up with Darree and confirm.

Adjourned 7:28 PM

Next Meeting: July 21st 7:00