

**EAST HANOVER TOWNSHIP
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PA**

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2009 – 7:00PM TO 9:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE:

East Hanover Township Planning Commission

David Craig (DC)	Chairman
Glen Moyer (GM)	Member
Mike Web (MW)	Member
Mike Kovach (MK)	Member
Nancy Sarcinello (NS), AICP	Community Planner
Leo R Scott (LS)	Community Planner

Representatives of the following organizations attended for comment and question on protection of environmental and historical resources. .

Karen Lutz (KL)	Manada Conservancy
Jeff Dove (JD)	Manada Conservancy & Horse Shoe Trail
Nancy Cladel (NC)	Dauphin County Conservation District
Sally Zaino (SZ)	Tri County Regional Planning Commission
Gil Hirschel (GH)	Tri County Regional Planning Commission
Karen Green (KG)	
Leah Rowand (LR)	
Appalachian Trail	
East Hanover Township Historical Society	

1. Opened meeting an Introductions

- a. DC and NS began the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

2. Overview of Comp Plan Progress to Date

- a. Timeline: NS explained the time schedule and importance at this time in the process to garner support and comment from environmental and historical agencies.

- b. Draft Demographic Profile: NS presented the revised demographic profile and briefly summarized the results of the profile. (Township is experiencing slow steady growth).
- c. Draft Goals and Objectives Related to Natural and Historic Resources: NS presented the revised draft goals and objectives (attached to meeting agenda) to the attendees. Reception of comments regarding the Natural and Historic Resources Sections were held till later in the meeting.

3. Review Draft Maps

- a. Existing Land Use Map: LS discussed that the data (Anderson Land Use and Land Cover Data) for the land use map was still currently under development by TCRPC staff and should be released to the Township within the Month. NS added that one of the goals of the mapping was to identify corridors such as open space, agricultural pres and trails. KG & NC added that this was one of the primary goals of the TCRPC and Manada Conservancy.
- b. Natural Resources / Natural Areas Inventory/Open Space and Recreation Areas: LS presented the newly mapped data and discussed some of the changes made on the Natural Resources map since the last meeting. SZ and KL offered comment of some of the map elements (Flyways, Bird Areas, Protected Properties, Trails) and offered support in providing more accurate data for the mapping.
- c. Historical Resources Map: NS and LS discussed data transfer difficulties with the original hardcopy maps. LS also discussed status of data request from PHMC. JD stated that the best method might be to locate the properties with Global Positioning System (GPS). DC and JD discussed volunteer possibilities for this task. No official decision was made on the topic.

4. Discussion of issues related to Historic Resource Protection

- a. DC and JD discussed the criteria for selecting EHT Historical Society's important properties.
- b. JD stated that the status of the properties on the list was not continuing however the Historical Society has taken the role of compiling information on the listed properties. JD also stated that

the Historical Society does not act in any advisory or commission function for the Township at this time.

- c. Issues of archaeological sensitivity and map publication of archaeological sites were discussed around the table.
- d. JD stated that the threat to the identified sites comes from land development pressures and neglect of historic structures.
- e. JD indicated the existing of the "Barn Book" identifying historic barns in the township. DC offered his services to scan the book and distribute.
- f. JD stated that some future items to be considered for the protection of historical resources would be comprehensive documentation of historic structures and sites indicating location age and significance to the township.
- g. KG and KL indicated the existence of Model Codes that could be used to enforce protection of Historic Sites. – Discussion by board on effects of Historic regulation vs. building code on the value of historic structures.
- h. NC added that raising awareness of historic structures and value may link to education of the public, creation of a listing of renovation specialists, and the relationship to energy efficiency improvement efforts.
- i. DC offered the possibility of a student / intern survey of the structures and sites
- j. KG referred to TCRPC supplement to the Agenda indicating Historic Resources (EHT SLDO sec 622) and identified adaptive reuse and historic view blocking. Discussion around the table regarding.

5. Issues Related to Natural Resources Protection

- a. Discussion of map layer improvements, GIS data assistance was offered from Horseshoe Trail, Manada Conservancy.
- b. SZ provided handouts of the Manada Conservancy's Goals and Objective Comments for the EHT Plan.
- c. Manada Conservancy stated the following concerns: creation of greenway networks, preservation of agricultural land (locally grown

products), study of aquifer water and carrying capacity, addressing sprawl, casino generated growth, and activation of TDRs (DC added that Maryland TDR design is a good model, strong focus is needed on receiving zones).

- d. KG identified the beneficial use of native plants as opposed to invasive species in development regulations.
- e. NS inquired from all the status of open space development design in the county. GH indicated that there is little to none and that the challenge to successful open space design is flexibility in the Land Use Control legislation put into place. SZ and NS confirmed that Chester County and areas in the Poconos are leading examples of open space development.
- f. KL described perception and use issues with the Appalachian Trail. (perceived long distance hikers are the most dominant, but used most frequently by short local hikers and recognized for iconic resources)
- g. SZ added that the Military and Gamelands (St Anthony's Wilderness) could stand to have confirmation of valued status by EHT within the plan in an attempt to protect if Fort Indiantown Gap may become dismantled/abandoned by the military. – Discussion around the table resulted in a recommendation by the commission to contact Scott Wyland (solicitor) regarding protection language for the Comprehensive Plan.
- h. Regarding Horseshoe Trail, SZ identified this group as a new conservancy with little acquisition power.
- i. MW and SZ discussed the Conservancy's Relationship to the Hershey Trust. This was deemed to be positive and beneficial for future preservation efforts.
- j. Final comments were taken on the subject of natural resources other concerns were protection of creek sides (MK), Review and use of goals/concepts from the Dauphin County Recreation Plan (SZ), planning for developing recycling program in EHT Park areas (KG), consideration of air and noise pollution issues and possible future legislation to control burning, emissions, Continuous Preservation Areas (LR)
- k. GH provided Agricultural Preservation Status in the Township (1 Property, and 1 Potential property in later 2009). Also considerations should be made for the review of the new Dauphin County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan when completed.

6. Vacant Land Map Edits –

- a. DC presented the vacant lands hand-edited map to LS for review.
7. Confirmation of the Next Meeting Date: August 19th at 7:00pm