

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
March 7, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.
Solebury Township Hall

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Kevin Morrissey, Chair, Helen Tai, Vice-chair, Noel Barrett, Paul Cosdon and James Searing. Dennis H. Carney, Manager and Gretchen K. Rice, Assistant Manager were also in attendance.

PRESENTATION – Stephen Souza of Princeton Hydro and William Collins of Simone Collins provided a power point presentation of the draft Aquetong Creek Restoration Project. A copy of the presentation will be posted on the Township’s website.

The presentation included detail on the overall goals to document existing ecologic and geomorphic conditions of the creek and former lake bed and to provide management and restoration guidance consistent with the following:

1. A dynamically stable creek channel capable of passing various flow rates without being subject to erosion;
2. A creek system capable of supporting a cold-water biological community;
3. A floodplain/riparian area that complements and increases the ecological functions of the creek channel; and
4. The creation of a passive recreation area and living classroom setting for the Township.

Details describing the following methods and assessments were also included:

1. Methods used to determine the presence of wetlands involving investigation of vegetation, soil and hydrology;
2. A basic biotic assessment of the formerly impounded area to document current ecology and hydrology of the site including mapping of the predominant vegetation present on the site;
3. A geomorphic investigation of the impounded area to determine the distribution of accumulated sediments and identify instability in the current channel.

Also generating from the above assessments was identification of invasive plant species that have already colonized in the former lake bed and adjacent riparian areas and guidance on how best to eradicate those species.

Also presented was a concept plan identifying a trail system throughout the site including a service parking area along Route 202. The main public access is proposed to remain at the current Lower Mountain Road location.

Mr. Souza noted that the soil on site is extremely fertile and aggressive control of invasive species is necessary. He recommended cut and treat with herbicides and replanting the area so that invasives do not regrow, adding that multiple cut and treat cycles will most likely be required.

Ms. Tai asked if it was feasible to control the invasive plants without the use of herbicides. Mr. Souza indicated that some species and areas may be amenable to removal by hand, but others are much more difficult to control.

Among the issues discussed, the Board considered the following:

1. additional tree planting at the site;
2. use of herbicides or other options including volunteer efforts at a test area to address the removal invasive plan species without the need for using herbicides;
3. stormwater drainage from the abutting campsite;
4. type of trails, e.g. mulch, woodchips, crushed stone, including possibly utilizing the stone to be removed from the location of the soon to be demolished pole barn;
5. resubmitting a revised DCED grant application;
6. methods for removal of sediment;
7. protection for properties downstream.

Mr. Souza and Mr. Collins will prepare a list of appropriate trees and locations for additional plantings.

Simone Collins will begin the DCNR design phase including park design, public access, parking trails, etc. Public input will be part of this process.

Simone Collins will also revise the previous DCED grant application and resubmit based upon the discussions this evening.

Princeton Hydro to put together detailed plans, specs and bid documents for sediment control in the stream, which would allow sediment removal to being in Spring 2018.

The Administration will seek proposals including cost estimates for removal of invasive species.

Barry Fetterolf addressed the Board and presenters regarding water quality.

Patty Bacon, on behalf of Deer Park, expressed her thanks to the Township for the work done and proposed work yet to be done on the site.

Res. 2017-38 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Ms. Tai, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen K. Rice
Assistant Manager

