



The Solebury Messenger

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November 2017

Deer Program Relies on Good Neighbors

Solebury Township's Deer Management Program seeks to address crop and property damage, the threat of disease, deer-related accidents and ecological imbalance by managing the white-tailed deer population. Its success depends on the participation of as many landowners in the Township as possible.

Based on the 2017 deer count by the USDA, the estimated deer population in Solebury Township is 146 per square mile, seven times greater than what is considered environmentally sustainable.

Overbrowsing by deer is a key cause of the depletion of the local woodland understory and the vegetation that lines local stream corridors. Deer management is an important part of Solebury's long-term plan for maintaining and protecting vital water resources. When the ecosystem is in balance, plant life plays an essential role in storm water management. Plant roots facilitate the reabsorption of water through the ground, which can help prevent localized flooding and recharge the groundwater supply.

Solebury has adopted a community-wide approach to reducing deer damage. The program's long-term success

depends on the active involvement of more Solebury landowners who are willing to allow sport hunting on their properties. If you are a landowner, The Township will match you up with a hunter who has been screened, licensed, trained, and committed to the legal and humane harvest of deer.

Positive relationships among hunters and landowners foster an

environment in which deer are harvested free of charge as well as in a manner that is mutually beneficial to both hunters and landowner.

For more information about how you can become involved in the program please call the Township at 215-297-5656, email deercommittee@soleburytwp.org or visit the Township website at soleburytwp.org/deer.

Voters Approve EMS Funding

With the overwhelming approval of the Ambulance Services Referendum on the Nov. 7 ballot, the Solebury Board of Supervisors is taking the next steps to bring 24/7 emergency medical services to the Township with the passage of next year's budget.

State law requires municipalities to win the approval of voters before increasing property taxes beyond 0.5 mills for emergency services. Solebury voters supported the referendum with 73.3 percent of the vote, 69.9 percent of New Hope residents approved a similar measure.

The expanded service will cost \$229,000 next year, an increase of \$129,000. The money will allow Central Bucks EMS to staff the New Hope Eagle Volunteer Fire Company around the clock,

instead of its current 7 a.m.-7 p.m. operating hours.

The 2018 Township Budget (as prepared for adoption and approved for advertising at the Board's Nov. 9 meeting) would increase property taxes by 0.55 mills, or \$35.75 per year on the average home, 21 percent less than originally projected by the Board.

"We were able to accomplish this reduction by negotiating a fair agreement with Central Bucks EMS and by squeezing some other costs," said Supervisor Helen Tai, vice chair of the Board.

The Township will continue its agreement with Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance and Rescue Squad, in order to ensure coverage if there is more than one emergency call at the same time.

What's in Your Inbox?

Meeting agendas, police alerts, weather bulletins and more are available by email. Visit SoleburyTwp.org and click "Email Notices."

Official Ribbon Cutting Opens River Road Trail

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, state Sen. Charles McIlhenney and state Rep. Scott Petri (left photo) joined with Solebury Township Parks and Recreation Director Dudley Rice, supervisors Noel Barrett, Paul Cosdon and Helen Tai, and former supervisors Bob Heath & Jim Searing, to officially open the trail on Aug. 25.



Ordinances Now Online

Solebury Township has recently completed a two-and-a-half-year program to codify all Township ordinances and make them available online. Visit the Township website at SoleburyTwp.org and click on the "Code of Ordinances" button to search the database.

Township Directory

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-5656.
General Inquiries: soleburytownship@soleburytwp.org

Township Manager Dennis H. Carney:
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary
Christine Terranova: cterranova@soleburytwp.org

LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator
Jean Weiss: jweiss@soleburytwp.org

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:
soleburyparks@soleburytwp.org

Right-To-Know Officers

Administrative Records:
soleburymanager@soleburytwp.org

Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie,
police@soleburypd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Kevin Morrissey | **Vice-Chair Helen Tai**
kmorrissey@soleburytwp.org | htai@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Noel Barrett | **Supervisor Paul Cosdon**
nbarrett@soleburytwp.org | pcosdon@soleburytwp.org

Supervisor Mark Baum Baicker
mbaumbaicker@soleburytwp.org

Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to last-minute changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.
All meetings are held at Solebury Township Hall.*

November

- 11/6 Historic Architectural Review Board
(Snow date 11/9)
- 11/9 Board of Supervisors (Budget Session)
(Thursday, due to Election Day)
- 11/13 Township Planning Commission
(Snow date 11/20)
- 11/14 Environmental Advisory Commission
- 11/16 Land Preservation Committee
- 11/16 Parks and Recreation Board
- 11/21 Board of Supervisors

December

- 12/4 Historic Architectural Review Board
(Snow date 12/7)
- 12/11 Township Planning Commission
(Snow date 12/18)
- 12/12 Environmental Advisory Committee
- 12/12 Board of Supervisors
- 12/21 Land Preservation Committee
- 12/21 Parks and Recreation Board

January

- 1/2 Board of Supervisors
Reorganization Meeting

*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!
Visit: SoleburyTwp.org, click "Email Notices"
and enter your email address.*

Solebury Parks & Recreation Halloween Night

Ghosts and goblins had a wide assortment of glowing costume accessories to choose from before heading out to trick-or-treat. It's all part of the Parks and Recreation Department's Light up the Night event, distributing free lighted items to keep our kids safe on Halloween night.



How to recycle:

Household Hazardous Waste

Whether it's that box of old paint cans in the garage or the 10-year-old computer in the basement, properly disposing of household chemicals and electronic waste can be tricky. Here's a handy cheat-sheet to help you figure out the best way to safely recycle these unneeded items.

Why recycling is important

Household products containing toxic chemicals, like pesticides, oil-based paints, solvents, cleaning products, weed killers and automotive batteries can be a threat to people and the environment if improperly discarded. Never throw these materials into the trash, as the toxic chemicals may harm sanitation workers, or result in fires in collection vehicles. It is also not safe to pour them into a sink or storm drain as they can end up in the environment polluting the air, water, or soil.

Bucks County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

From the end of May until the end of August, Bucks County sponsors several all-day waste drop-offs. No electronics are accepted at these events. You can bring Up to 25 gallons or 220 pounds of hazardous products. These events are for residents only, and are not open to business, industry, or institutions.

What you CAN bring

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Pesticides | Toxics |
| - Chlordane | - Photographic |
| - DDT | Chemicals |
| - Malathion | - Pool Chemicals |
| - Sevin | - Rust / Paint |
| - Rodent Poison | Remover |
| Flammables | - Weed Killer |
| - Oil-based Paint | - Antifreeze |
| - Paint Thinner | - Mercury |
| - Spot Removers | - CFLs (fluorescent |
| - Gasoline | lamps) |
| - Kerosene | Household Batteries |
| - Gas/Oil mixture | - All Button Types |
| - Heating Oil | - Lithium |
| Caustics | - Re-chargeables |
| - Ammonia-Based | Lead-Acid Batteries |
| Cleaners | - Car |
| - Household Lye | - Marine |
| - Oven Cleaner | - Motorcycle |
| - Drain Cleaner | - Truck |
| - Metal Cleaner | Propane Tanks |
| | - 20 lbs. or less only |

What NOT to bring

- LATEX PAINT
(it is not toxic – it is water based)*
 - Appliances (with or without Freon)
 - Asbestos
 - Biological Waste
 - Explosives
 - Gas Cylinders (Greater than 20 lbs.)
 - Household Batteries (regular alkaline)
 - PCBs
 - Pressurized CFCs (greater than 1 lb.)
 - Radioactive Waste
 - Tires
- *Remove lid to allow to air dry or mix with absorbent (e.g. kitty litter) until no longer a liquid and discard in plastic trash bag.

For additional information on disposal options, contact:

- ◆ The PADEP Recycling Hotline
1-800-346-4242
- ◆ Bucks County Planning Commission
215-345-3400
- ◆ www.buckscounty.org/recycling

How to recycle:

Electronic Waste

Televisions, computers and many other electronic devices can no longer be disposed of with municipal waste under Pennsylvania's Covered Devices Recycling Act of 2010. Many of these devices contain mercury, lead, arsenic, chromium and other potentially hazardous substances. Recycling keeps these toxins from contaminating groundwater from landfills, and reduces the mining of rare earth minerals used in manufacturing.

Bucks County does not have an electronics recycling program, but county officials do recommend the services of several private firms that handle old televisions.

Please confirm the program, fees, and any other conditions with these companies before dropping off.

Television and Computer Monitor Recyclers

Lower Bucks

E-Waste Experts
416 Green Lane
Bristol, PA 19007
877-328-2927

Central Bucks

611 Metals
6776 Easton Road
Pipersville, PA 18947
267-629-6427

Upper Bucks

Gigabiter
130 Penn Ann Drive
Quakertown, PA 18951
267-227-3032

Call for Pick-up

E-Waste Experts—1-877-328-2927
1-800-Got Junk—1-800-468-5865
Geek Squad—1-800-433-5778
Junk Luggers—1-800-584-5864

Perkasie PC Repair & Recycling
1133 N. 5th Street
Perkasie, PA 18944
215-257-7727

Other Commercial Recycling Options

Staples

- Offers free, in-store – drop off recycling for most electronics, except TVs. They have a limit of 7 items per customer per day.
- Offers a Trade-In promotion. This can be done in-store or online. Staples should be contacted directly for additional information.
- All recycling companies partnered with Staples are e-Stewards recyclers.

PECO

PECO Energy will pick up your old working refrigerator, freezer or room air conditioner for free. They will recycle the item, and pay \$50 for a refrigerator or freezer and \$10 for an air conditioner. More information is available online at peco.com/recycling.

Best Buy

- Offers free, in-store – drop-off recycling for most electronics, except TVs and Computer Monitors. They have a limit of 3 items per household per day.
- Offers a Trade-In promotion. Best Buy should be contacted directly for additional information.
 - TVs: Stores in Pennsylvania do not accept TVs for drop-off.
 - Do offer Haul- Away Options for TVs:
 - They will haul away a TV from your home for \$14.99 when a replacement product is delivered by Geek Squad or Best Buy Home Delivery. Stand-alone pickup without a qualifying TV purchase is \$99.99.
 - Monitors: Stores in Pennsylvania do not accept Monitors for drop-off. No Haul-Away option available.
 - One of their electronics recyclers is an e-Stewards recycler.

Autumn Leaves: Do's and Don'ts for the Environment

The fall season means falling leaves, the last mow of the lawn, and a pile of trimmings and clippings in preparation for winter. Whether you've contracted with a landscaping company or prefer to tend to the yard yourself, here are a few considerations to keep in mind to protect our environment, respect our neighbors and keep our roadways safe.

Composting is good for the environment. A well-maintained compost pile enriches the soil, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, gives a home to beneficial bacteria and lowers your carbon footprint. You should site your compost pile in a dry, shady spot near a water source and away from the road, and feed it a mix of untreated green and brown yard trimmings. For more information on composting, the US Department of Environmental Protection has an informational website at www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home

Scattering grass clippings in the road is bad for the environment. Township equipment can't vacuum up grass clippings, and the next storm will wash them down the catch basins, clogging inlets and choking streams. These cuttings themselves are not

healthy for our water ecology, let alone any herbicides and pesticides that they may contain.

Wet leaves are a roadway hazard. Even when dry, leaves hide road obstacles and obscure pavement markings; when wet they are as slick as ice. The Township works diligently to remove leaves from our roads, primarily to keep drivers safe from slipping and skidding conditions. While Solebury has a single leaf collection truck to gather and distribute leaves to local farmers for mulch, large leaf piles left at the edge of the road are a safety concern — they block drivers' vision, reduce the size of the running lane and all too frequently blow out across the roadway.

Three things you can do to help. Get started with composting and mulching your clippings and leaves. Get involved with Solebury's Environmental Advisory Council, where the Township develops plans and programs for leaf management and other ecological concerns. Notify the Township about large leaf piles at the roadside or material blown into the street — the quicker our crews know about it, the faster we can collect it.

Help Save the Honeybees

A pesticide-free and diverse environment helps our local pollinators

Solebury residents have worked for decades to preserve the land and protect the natural resources we enjoy each day. But our native plants and local crops need more than open space and clean water — a robust community of pollinating insects and birds is critical to their survival. Honeybees are major pollinators, and they need our help to survive.

Scientists raised the alarm about honeybee colony collapse about a decade ago. A great deal of effort has since been spent to revive the bees, who help pollinate about a third of the food we eat and most of the fruits and vegetables we grow. The rate of honeybee loss in Pennsylvania is about 60 percent, according to the state beekeepers association, well above the national average.

While the precise cause of the bee die-off isn't known, researchers have identified four issues that certainly stress the colony and are likely

contributors to their small numbers. Poor nutrition, pesticides, pathogens, and pests and parasites are the four P's of bee population decline.

Poor nutrition affects bees when they aren't able to get a good variety of pollen from a broad assortment of plants. In Solebury, we have long supported a bee-friendly environment: lots of native plants, fewer manicured lawns and more meadows with plenty of trees and bushes.

Solebury's efforts to cut down on dangerous chemical herbicides and pesticides also makes the Township more bee-friendly. By sharply reducing the first two of the four P's, our local bees are stronger to fight off natural pathogens and pests on their own.



Protect Your Roadside Environment

If you want to stop PennDOT from spraying herbicide along the side of the road in front of your home, you'll need to apply for a Vegetation Management Permit. As we wrote in the last *Messenger*, the process is a bit cumbersome but an important step in protecting our environment. To learn more and download the form, visit the township website at SoleburyTwp.org and click on Documents & Forms.

The Hardy Ash Tree has Many Pests

Develop a plan to maintain this widespread shade tree

A favorite tree of country landscapers and urban planners for its full canopy and wide variety of types, the Ash makes its home from New England to northern Florida. Given the right care, these trees can live for more than a century. But when the Ash falls victim to disease or pests it can die quickly, leaving a hull that easily topples into the road or yard.

The Ash needs full sunlight and moist soil, and should be planted at least 60 feet from other trees to give its extensive root system ample room to grow. While over-pruning will harm this tree, dead limbs should be removed quickly, before the first frost.

Emerald Ash Borer

The most deadly pest for the Ash is the Emerald Ash Borer. The adult beetle nibbles on the leaves and doesn't cause much damage, but the larvae bore into the tree and decimate its vascular system, killing it quickly. The Emerald Ash Borer has destroyed hundreds of millions of trees in the U.S. and has been detected across Pennsylvania.



New infestations are difficult to detect, and may go unnoticed for as long as three years. Two of the ways to spot the presence of the beetle: It leaves a D-shaped hole in the bark when the adults emerge from the larval stage, and woodpeckers feast on the larvae — heavy woodpecker damage is often a sign of infestation.



The USDA Forest Service and Michigan State University have built a

website, emeraldashborer.info, that serves as a clearing house of information about the Emerald Ash Borer.

Treatment is challenging. While several insecticide options are available, it is difficult to successfully control under-bark feeders with chemicals. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources recommends on its website that only ash trees that are healthy and are of value to the homeowner should be considered for treatment. Other ash trees should be removed before they become a hazard.



Diseases

Several diseases can attack the Ash tree. Anthracnose causes defoliation and twig death, Ash Yellows causes cankers leading to dieback, and Verticillium Wilt is another cankerous disease that infiltrates bark and branches. Penn State University's Agricultural Extension has a full rundown on Ash diseases on its website at extension.psu.edu/ash-diseases. You can also use the search box at the top to explore their database for more Ash tree information.

What you can do

Homeowners can keep Ash trees alive and healthy for many generations with watchful care. Be aware of the signs of pests and disease, and have a tree replacement plan ready so you can act quickly — once stricken, death comes quick.

And don't forget the trees along the roadside in your maintenance plan — they are the homeowner's responsibility, and if they die, they pose a major hazard to the roadway and must be quickly removed.

With good care and vigilance, we can protect this important native tree for generations to come.

Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine in Bucks County

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive planthopper that attacks many hosts including grapes, apples and stone fruits. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has a quarantine program in place to control and eradicate this pest, and while Solebury is not yet affected, several areas in Bucks County



have been placed under quarantine.

Trees with smooth bark are most susceptible to this pest, including willows, maples, poplars, tulip poplars, birch and ash, among others.

To report Spotted Lanternfly, you can call 866-253-7189 or email Badbug@pa.gov.

Reflections on Aquetong Spring

With the warm colors and brisk mornings of fall upon us, and the promise of winter's blanketing snow ahead, we all can be grateful to be residents of Solebury Township. Our community is filled with natural wonders, distinctively beautiful in each changing season.

Not to be missed is the recently designated Aquetong Spring Park at the site of the former Aquetong Lake located on the south side of Route 202 near Lower Mountain Road. The cold-water limestone spring at the heart of the site flows at a rate of about 2,000 gallons per minute at approximately 53 degrees, and is known to be the

largest of its kind in the five-county Philadelphia region, and one of the largest in the state of Pennsylvania. It is indeed a rare treasure – a marvel to look at, listen to, and contemplate.

The Aquetong Spring site has historical significance as a sacred place to the Lenni Lenape Nation, a central power source for local mills that operated from the early 1700s to the 1860s, and a recreational site enjoyed by the public. Now in the stewardship of Solebury Township, it is envisioned to be returned to its natural glory and celebrated as a park and open space for members of the public.



Plans for Aquetong Spring Park

The site is slated for passive recreation and historical and environmental education, with educational features celebrating the park's unique environment and rich history. As the water continues to find its course, the Township continues to plan for the future use of the property.

The Township is considering construction of a trail alongside Route 202 from the northern border of the park to the parking lot on Lower Mountain Road. The trail could be constructed to capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff from Route 202 before it enters Aquetong Stream (which will be accomplished in some manner in any event). While the trail wouldn't immediately connect to other trails, it would be part of a larger plan to build a Route 202 Cross-County Trail. The Township has applied for a \$1.115 million grant from PennDOT's Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program for trail construction.

The Township is also working on a vegetation plan to stabilize the stream and control invasive species, and a plan to develop other trails through the 48-acre property, create additional public access and parking, and possibly add other amenities for public use. The Township has

secured \$550,000 in funding to be used for design and other park improvements (\$250,000 from a previously awarded PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant + \$250,000 in local matching funds previously committed by Solebury Township; and a \$50,000 Trout Unlimited grant), and expects to hear soon about whether it has been awarded a \$250,000 grant by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

By leveraging available public funds, Solebury Township is working hard to restore for residents and visitors a fascinating local treasure. An interpretive sign has now been placed at the site near the Judy House, and an extensive online historical record dating from 1860 up through 2016, complete with photos, has been compiled by the Solebury Township Historical Society at <http://soleburyhistory.org/on-line-exhibits/aquetong-spring-park/history/>. Continued planning and future completion of the park will ensure that this natural wonder provides educational and recreational opportunities to the public, and a space to celebrate our gratuities, in all seasons for years to come.

Aquetong Spring: A history

Prior to European settlement, the Lenni Lenape tribe inhabited a village close to the spring and designated the spring "Aquetong", meaning "at the spring among the bushes". After an outbreak of smallpox, however, the tribe, abandoned the village.

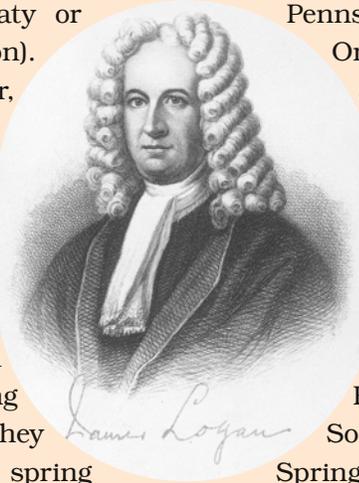
William Penn acquired Aquetong Spring in the early 1680's as part of his peaceful treaty with the Lenni Lenape (the Great Treaty or Treaty of Shackamaxon). About 20 years later, Penn granted approximately 500 acres of land, including Aquetong Spring, to his personal secretary, James Logan. By that time, mills had been established along Aquetong Creek, and they used the outflow of the spring (which they named the "Great Spring") as a water source.

Jacob Dean and Jonathan Ingham purchased the property from Logan in the 1740's, with Ingham receiving the portion of the property that includes Aquetong Spring (also known thereafter as "Ingham Spring"). Ingham, a successful farmer and clothier, used the spring to operate a fulling mill. In the 1800's, Samuel Ingham inherited the property from his father and built a paper mill on the site.

As of the early 1800's, Aquetong Spring is known to have supplied enough water to turn two grist mills regularly throughout the year, and to have concurrently powered numerous mills including a paper mill, a fulling mill, two merchant mills, four saw mills, and an oil mill. The cold-water limestone spring, which flows at a rate of about 2,000 gallons per minute at approximately

53 degrees, is known to be the largest of its kind in the 5-county Philadelphia region, and one of the largest in the state of Pennsylvania.

Samuel Ingham is an important figure in the history of Solebury Township, New Hope Borough, and indeed the United States. Locally, he was responsible for building the Delaware Canal and the first bridge across the Delaware River between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



On a national level, he served many terms as a U.S. Congressman, and as Secretary of the Treasury under President Andrew Jackson. In 1831, he turned down an offer to become minister to Russia and returned to Solebury and Ingham Springs. His Ingham Springs Paper Mill remained in operation until his 1860 death in Trenton, NJ.

After Samuel Ingham's death, the property was sold to the Beaumont family, and the spring and surrounding property were thereafter sold to Dr. V. Mattison in 1867. Around 1870, the 15-acre Aquetong Lake was created by constructing a dam at the east end of the property. This provided



additional power for the local mills and a recreational area for the public. A fish hatchery was constructed at the base of the spring outfall, portions of which can still be viewed today. Shad, brook trout, and terrapin turtles were raised in the hatchery, which was available for public viewing for 25 cents per

person.

The property was acquired from the Mattison estate in 1936 by Dr. Perry Bond and his wife, Helen. The Bonds constructed the existing house off of Lower Mountain Road in the 1950s. The house became known as the "Judy House" after the Bonds sold the property to Helen's brother, Dr. Judy, in 1975. The Bonds worked to restore and preserve the lake and spring during their term of ownership; the Judys maintained the property and made few changes.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission acquired the property from its last private owners in 1993. Michael Roush, the Area Boating Programs Specialist for the eastern half of Pennsylvania, officed and resided on site. A few years later, with the support of Bucks County Trout Unlimited, Solebury Township began negotiating to obtain ownership of the site. Around 1996, the State performed emergency repairs on the dam; approximately 6 feet of the outlet structure were removed to take pressure off the aging barrier. This lowered the level

of the lake and added about 80 feet of wetlands to the western shoreline.

However, it was recognized that a complete repair of the dam could cost

over \$1 million and might not be the best choice for the environment. This recognition may have been in part due to the activism of Bucks County Trout Unlimited, which began advocating in 1996 for removal of the dam and restoration of brook trout to Aquetong Creek.

Aquetong Spring: The Township as steward

In 2009, after almost 15 years of negotiations, Solebury Township gained control of the property, with the goal of preserving this important natural resource. It purchased the lake and surrounding properties from the state and obtained a 25-year lease for the approximately 1/8 acre that includes the



spring head. The Township's total costs were substantially reduced because it received a large credit in exchange for its commitment to repair the dam in the future, as well as funding from the Bucks County Natural Areas Program toward the purchase.

Following the purchase, the Township engaged in a five-year process of community outreach and consultation with environmental experts in which it considered alternatives for the Aquetong Lake dam. Choices included rebuilding the dam in its then-current form, creating a smaller lake with a cold-water bypass into Aquetong Creek, or breaching the dam and restoring a free-flowing stream. Ultimately, recognizing that the lake was a thermal reservoir which introduced warm water into Aquetong Creek and eventually into the streams and river, the Township decided in 2013 to breach rather than restore the dam, and return the site to its natural state.

In June 2014, the Township adopted its revised Comprehensive Plan, which included a short-term

(1-2 year) goal of restoring Aquetong Creek as a cold-water system and developing a plan for recreational use of Ingham Spring Park, seeking alternative funding for completion of the project; and a mid-term (3-5) year goal of creating and implementing the recreational plan for Ingham Spring including the Judy House.

In fulfillment of the Township's short-term goal, the Aquetong Restoration Project got underway In April 2015. The project proceeded gradually -- first emptying the lake by slowly pumping



out more water per day than was introduced by the spring, then building a temporary downstream stone and fabric-filter buffer dam, and finally removing 100 feet of the 150-year old earthen dam, seeding the muddy bottom with a mix of grasses and wildflowers to stabilize drainage and prevent erosion, and removing the temporary buffer dam. Funding for the project was provided by the Township (with the state allowing the purchase credit to be

used for removal, rather than repair of the dam), along with Bucks County Open Space funds and Township Land Preservation Funds for restoring the lake bed and surrounding areas.

In the two years that have passed since the dam was removed, the stream has started to take its natural course, and the Township has monitored the water temperature, fish population and effect on the creek downstream. In November 2015, the Township held a public tree planting event, planting 200 trees to restore the forest in the riparian corridor along the creek. The trees were provided by a TreeVitalize grant from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and the Township partnered with the Bucks County Conservation District and the Aquetong Watershed Association to conduct the planting.

In addition, on April 29, 2017, Bucks County Trout Unlimited released 50 wild, native brook trout into Aquetong Creek. The fish were captured from a Lehigh River tributary by traditional fly fishing methods and successfully transported about 70 miles and



released into Aquetong Creek. Restoration of the site is a work in process that will take some time. Until the project is complete, the site may be rough at times, both visually and in terms of accessibility, as the land stabilizes and the restoration work progresses.