

Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association
Thompson Dam Alternatives Analysis
First Stakeholder Presentation Meeting Notes

October 22, 2018

6:00 pm, Ambler Yards, Brookside Ave, Ambler, PA

Presenters:

- Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association – John Ferro and Gina CRAIGO
- Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. – Nathan Walker and Sarah Dickert

Agenda:

- Introduction by John Ferro
- Thompson Dam Alternatives Analysis Presentation by Nathan Walker and Sarah Dickert
 - Overview of Green Ribbon Trail
 - Comparison of land use in vicinity of Thompson Dam from 1942 to present day
 - Presented pictures of current condition of Thompson Dam
 - Summarized key points of 2004 Investigation Report funded by Whitpain Township
 - Summarized 2017 PADEP Inspection Letter and 2018 Wood site visit
 - Explained current hydrology, topography, water quality, natural resources, land use, and recreation at Thompson Dam and in greater Wissahickon watershed
 - Presented alternatives being considered and next steps
- Stakeholder discussion

Notes:

- Neighborhood feedback:
 - Enjoy recreational and aesthetic value of dam and dam pool
 - People bought properties assuming they'd have access to dam pool (concern about change in riparian corridor, property value, use of their property)
 - Concerned about unsightly or restrictive signage being put up around dam
 - Enjoy sound of water flowing over dam
 - Concern about increased mosquito population and smell from exposed stream bottom if dam were removed
 - Neighborhood residents commonly use the dam for fishing and boating. Other users access via Mathers Rd, Whitpain Township property at Battleson Rd, and from the Green Ribbon Trail.
 - Increased traffic from public users accessing dam pool through township owned easement
 - Concern that the ecosystem around dam pool could change
 - Concern about disturbance and aesthetic issues that could accompany changes to the dam area
 - Adjacent properties have not had any damage from flooding



- 'No action' is favorable alternative for some, asking the question: "What is the likelihood of PADEP taking enforcement action?"
- Recreational user feedback:
 - Concern about flooding downstream
 - Green Ribbon Trail is being used a lot more now than it has been in the past because of trail improvements and maintenance
 - Want to maintain health of Wissahickon Creek as a whole system
 - Interest in water quality improvements of Wissahickon Creek

Action Items:

- Perform conceptual impact analysis of resources
- Create resource concern matrix for four alternatives of interest (no action, dam rehabilitation, partial dam breach, dam removal)
- Develop conceptual cost comparison of four alternatives

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

- Present resource concern matrix
- Present conceptual cost comparison

