

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2013**

A Public Meeting was held on the above date at the Salisbury Township Municipal Building located at 2900 South Pike Avenue, Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 P.M. Committee members in attendance: Glenn Miller, Mary Ann Stinner, Jane Benning, Sandra Thomas, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Kreg Ulery, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative, and Randy Soriano, Township Manager were (excused) not present.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Miller announced that all sessions of the Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Council regular meetings are electronically recorded as required by the By-laws and for the purpose of taking the Minutes.

Minutes – 12/19/2012

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Ms. Thomas, to approve the December 19, 2012 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as submitted. All in favor.

Report of officers and committees (including BOC, PC, Manager and /or Planning/Zoning:

Ms. Sopka highlighted the Zoning, Planning and Board of Commissioners Meetings for the month.

New Business

Reorganization of the EAC.

Mrs. Stinner made a motion to nominate Glenn Miller for Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council. Ms. Thomas seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Mrs. Benning made a motion to nominate Kreg Ulery for Vice-Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council. Ms. Thomas seconded the nomination. All in favor.

2012 Annual Report.

Ms. Sopka completed the annual report and forwarded this to all members of the EAC for review. Comments were incorporated. Ms. Sopka stated that the report will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Miller addressed **Bird Town Lehigh Valley**. All members' comments were incorporated into the application. A letter of request will be provided to the Board of Commissioners including what the application fee is to participate with Bird Town. This letter will advise the importance of what Bird Town will do for the environment and it will give Salisbury Township its own identity.

The EAC discussed preparations for the **Earth Day Event** scheduled for May 18, 2013 at Lindberg Park. They discussed the time frame for each topic presentation, the items that will be necessary for the presentations and advertising. Ms. Stinner advised the speaker for the composting workshop has a power point presentation.

Ms. Sopka recommended that the EAC re-introduce themselves to the new Superintendent of the School District. She stated that she would like to revisit the staff at the schools and also the new charter school and incorporate all the schools into environmental projects.

Review of the proposed zoning amendments, specifically the environmental section and topics.

Mrs. Stinner and Mrs. Benning both suggested a working meeting in between the EAC meetings to focus on this topic only, allowing no distractions for other items the EAC is working on.

There was small discussion regarding the environmental topics in question. Mr. Miller inquired if the Comprehensive Plan is carried into the Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Sopka stated that the Comprehensive Plan makes recommendations which are to be referenced in the Zoning Ordinance.

The Planning Commission had asked that the EAC have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed environmental component of the zoning ordinance. It was agreed to schedule a working meeting at least within two weeks to review the items.

Additional Information

Ms. Sopka emailed the Master Watershed Steward Program for Lehigh and Northampton Counties. This is offered by Penn State Extension. It is 40 hour training to learn how to become a watershed steward. Please contact Erin Frederick if interested at 610-391-9840 or elf145@psu.edu.

Nurture Nature is hosting a workshop on invasive plants January 31, 2013, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Nurture Nature Center in Easton, PA. For more information visit the website: www.nurturenaturecenter.org.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is offering a grant. The webinar is regarding the study of predrilling ground water quality and 700 water wells and springs in North Central Pennsylvania. A full schedule of webinars for the next 12 months can be found at:

Announcement regarding PA Natural Heritage Program inventories combined into a web-based state wide map. [Web-based statewide map](#) [PNHP website](#).

Public Comments

Zach Reinhart, Boy Scout with Troop 5 in Allentown, attended this meeting as he is working on his Eagle Scout badge. His topic is in respect to environmental pollution and how people are working together to help correct this issue. He would like to incorporate birds into his topic and how birds assist the environment for the better. Ms. Sopka gave him a brief review of Bird Town and what birds do for the environment. She will provide him literature for his project. She also advised him to review the Townships Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) which will provide him additional information on environmental protection. Ms. Sopka welcomed him to contact her for an appointment to review his project.

Commissioner Ackerman recommended Walking Purchase Park for a topic. It is a beautiful park but has a lot of illegal dumping. Ms. Sopka provided him a brief history of the park and the clean-up projects that have been taking place.

Discussion ensued between the EAC members and Mr. Reinhart in regards to offering him information for composting, electronic recycling, household hazardous wastes, and environmental pollution, e.g. the burning of plastic is not allowed and is regulated.

Mrs. Benning recommended Mr. Reinhart come to the Earth Day Event in May, as she believes there will be plenty of information for him to assist him on his Eagle Scout project.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment

The EAC motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned. All in favor.