

**Salisbury Township  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 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, Kreg Ulery (late), Jane Benning, Mary Ann Stinner, Sandra Thomas (late) Joseph Hebelka Planning Commission Representative, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC and Randy Soriano Township Manager.

Ms. Sopka called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Sopka 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 – 05/15/2013**

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, to approve the May 15, 2013 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as amended. 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.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

**Representatives from Salisbury Township, City of Allentown and Lehigh County would like the opportunity to address the proposed electronic gates for Walking Purchase Park as part of the pending grant with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).**

Present was Mr. Robert Stifler, Director of Parks and Recreation for Lehigh County; John Mikowychok Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Allentown and Rick Holtzman, Superintendent of Parks for the City of Allentown.

A power point presentation was provided. Mr. Mikowychok believes the electronic gates are a fair solution to try and solve the problem of the illegal dumping that occurs in Walking Purchase Park. It is a combination of residential and commercial dumping. The trash is not just household trash and furniture items. There are large quantities of commercial debris being dumped, e.g., tires, roofing materials, etc. There are health hazardous associates with this type of dumping, especially the debris that holds water.

With the electronic gates, it is hoped to prevent the surrounding municipalities and cities of spending hundreds to thousands of dollars in future clean up expenses and to not have the park become a large scale dump.

Discussion ensued on gate locations and the need to replace the existing gate on the east side and the mechanics of the gates. The proposed gates were installed at the Trexler Game Preserve. These gates are on a programmable timer, as daylight changes the gates can be reprogrammed to make sure they are closed at dusk. There is an inside sensor on the gate for any vehicle still inside the gate, it will allow the vehicle to exit the park and close behind them.

Discussion ensued. Property owners that surround the Park expressed concern about accessibility to their property and the gates being placed in general. It was advised that they are looking into making accommodations for individuals that own property in that area, one being a keypad entry system. The property owner would be given a key code and passcode specifically for their entry. There will be specific municipality signage posted.

Mr. Stiffler stated that they are trying to remedy an illegal dumping problem and how to logically solve this issue. The best solution is to get the area secured. We can't afford to use tax payer dollars to clean up the Park every two weeks.

The second proposal with the gates is cameras. Cameras will be installed at each gate.

Ms. Sopka stated that she appreciated all the input from the surrounding residents. With this feedback, it assists the representatives to again review the proposed project.

The **Earth Day Celebration** that took place at Lindberg Park on May 18<sup>th</sup> was discussed and evaluated. A few ideas were as follows:

- Get the event closer to the April 22, 2013 Earth Day.
- Consider calling it an Earth Fair Celebration.
- Coordinate with the local fire department for fire safety.
- Better publicity.
- More Signage or Banners printed up and post a few weeks prior to event.
- Reach out to the school districts.
- Believed it was well organized event.
- Would like to see more children attend the event as there were many activities and games.
- When event is publicized to put in the time of each presentation.
- Coordinate with a bicycle shop to donate their time, teach kids safety measures and how to take care of their bike properly. Maybe to try and find a sponsor for bike helmets for the kids that attends. If we can combine this with the event, it would be a better draw for families to come together.
- Bring something and take something table.
- Paper shredding.
- Battery collection.

Commissioner Ackerman stated at the next meeting a date should be set for 2014, allowing them plenty of time to work on this event.

### **Additional Information**

### **Public Comments**

None

**Agenda for Next Meeting**  
Earth Day Event

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Ulery, the meeting was adjourned. All in favor.