

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 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, Kreg Ulery, Jane Benning, Mary Ann Stinner, Sandra Thomas, Joseph Hebelka Planning Commission Representative, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Task Force member: Robert Agonis. Committee members not present (excused) Commissioner (BOC liaison) Joanne Ackerman 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 – 09/18/2013

Motion was made by Mrs. Stinner, seconded by Mr. Ulery, to approve the September 18, 2013 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.

Old Business

Planning for the Earth Fair Celebration scheduled for 2014. It was recommended to schedule the event closest to Earth week 2014.

Mr. Agonis has been in communication with Ms. Katie Velekei, Sustainability Specialist at (LVHN) Lehigh Valley Health Network. Ms. Velekei invited the Salisbury Township EAC to join them in LVHN Earth Week 2014. She provided different dates and locations.

The EAC discussed using Lindberg Park for this 2nd annual event and to work much harder on the advertising for resident participation. They would like to get the participation of the School Districts including Arts Academy, Salisbury Youth Association (SYA), St. Thomas More and The Swain School. Advertising was discussed and what communication efforts will be taken.

The EAC will make communication with the SYA President and the School Districts as they would like the children active in this event. There were many children's activities and games. The EAC discussed coordinating with a bicycle shop to donate their time and teach kids safety measures and how to care for their bikes properly. Consider finding a sponsor for bike helmets and/or inquire if there is a community grant.

During the event, will provide a "bring something and take something" table (plants, seeds, etc.), paper shredding, battery recycling, electronic recycling, etc.

Ms. Thomas said recently participated in a paper shredding event at the Blood Center. The fee was about \$100 for the truck to come out to collect and dispose of the paper.

Projects that would pertain to the School Districts were discussed, e.g., Trout Creek. This could be discussed in hopes to help draw in more school students. Mr. Ulery stated that he would contact the Science teachers at the School District.

Additionally, the EAC will contact Western Salisbury Fire Department, Clean Up PA, Waste Management, Bird Town, Watershed Specialist Ms. Rebecca Kennedy and Ms. Erin Frederick, and invite them to participate in this event.

The members reviewed their Earth Day event from 2013 and the changes that that will take place for 2014.

On motion by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mr. Ulery, the EAC voted 4-1 to conduct the Earth Fair Celebration on Saturday, April 26, 2014 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Lindberg Park.

On motion by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Ms. Thomas, the EAC motioned that Mr. Ulery contact the Science Teacher in the School Districts for future science projects. All in favor.

New Business

Mr. Agonis brought forth concerns of **shade/street trees** at the September meeting.

The advocacy of the EAC would be to provide property owners with the following suggestions and/or recommendations:

1. A variety list of replacement trees that correspond to those included in the new proposed Zoning Ordinance by species.
2. Provide additional research regarding handling of situations where underground utilities limit or prohibit tree replacement. There are many areas with underground utilities where trees have been planted and removal is required because the tree is not surviving. This then falls on the responsibility of the homeowner.
3. To be able to continue to generally promote residential tree planting, perhaps coupled with other groups to help distribute or plant trees. To consider fabricating a program to identifying significant trees in the Township.

Ms. Sopka stated that what had happened with past street trees is that they were associated with land developments. She stated that years ago developers didn't really have that foresight of all the upcoming underground utilities, e.g., cable lines, electrical, sewer, etc. Depending on the location of the street tree, at that time, it may have been inappropriate because the roots now are growing into sewer systems, storm drains, bulking up sidewalks, etc. Usually the agreement with the land developments were that each respective property owner had responsibility over that street tree, unfortunately in the instance, there has been storms, snow, hurricanes which have caused damage. Trees need to be maintained properly. In that, the EAC could look into educating the residents on proper tree planting and how to maintain a health tree population in the Township.

Ms. Sopka did research on proper guidance of proper street trees and maintenance. She will forward this information to the EAC members via email.

Visitation of the Goals and Objectives referenced in the Salisbury Township EAC annual 2013 report.

The EAC has been afforded some guidance regarding funding for some of the EAC goals. To consider coordinating projects with the School District and what would have a tremendous impact to the Township.

1. Establish communication with Salisbury Township School District to discuss potential environmental awareness projects on school property and/or involving students. One aspect would be to coordinate improvements to the Trout Creek Stream.
2. Continue environmental awareness efforts to educate Township residents.
3. To raise the profile of Salisbury Township as a critical ecosystem for the wellbeing of the Lehigh Valley, particularly related to wildlife habitat, air quality, water quality and our watershed.

In addition to these goals, the EAC discussed the Natural Resource Inventory and the various recommendations it provides to pursue.

Ms. Sopka recently had a meeting with Lehigh County, the City of Allentown and Ms. Karen Elchar, with respect to Walking Purchase Park. Ms. Elchar will be approaching the township with additional information regarding the Walking Purchase Park Cleanup scheduled for September 24, 2014. The Friends of Allentown Parks does a very large project and Ms. Elchar wants this project to be Walking Purchase Park in totality.

Mr. Miller stated to also contact the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and invite them to participate in the Cleanup. High School Scouts are required to do a community service.

Additional Information

National Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for October 26, 2013 at the South Mall from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. sponsored by the Salisbury Township Police Department.

Public Comments

None

Agenda for Next Meeting

Earth Day Event

Adjournment

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