

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2011**

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: Bruce Burchard, Louis Cinquino, Jane Benning, Mary Ann Stinner, Glenn Miller, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Randy Soriano, Township Manager and Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative (excused) were not present. Special Task Force members: Glenn Minnick, Samantha Dorney and Sandra Thomas were not present.

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

Mr. Burchard 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 – 12/15/2010

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mr. Cinquino, to approve the December 15, 2010 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 and Planning Meetings for the month.

Old Business

None

New Business

Re-organization of Officers for the EAC.

Mr. Burchard made a motion to nominate Glenn Miller for Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council. Mr. Cinquino seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Ms. Benning made a motion to nominate Louis Cinquino for Vice-Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council. Mr. Burchard seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Review of comments for the Natural Resource Inventory Draft Report.

The EAC reviewed the first draft of the NRI with their comments and concerns. Mr. Miller stated the preface must be rephrased with Township goals and objectives, and broaden the description of the NRI purpose. Mr. Miller's indicated reference to an Appendix of existing studies is stated in the preface however no Appendix was included in the draft report. Discussion continued about the LVPC Natural Areas Inventory Site Map and clarification is needed as to what map is being referred to either the LVPC study or the NRI study.

Mr. Miller stated that the NRI report is scientifically well written, but should be put in layman's terms for public understanding. The members agreed an executive summary would be beneficial and would state major findings and recommendations.

Discussion continued about South Mountain being studied extensively, but it is not referred to in the report. This information, with previous studies, should be incorporated and detailed into the report and map. Ms. Sopka stated that any mapping requires source data. It was noted that there is also confusion on the map about the eastern and western portion of the Township. The map needs to be reviewed and clarified as there are invasive species on the eastern side which are not identified.

Mr. Cinquino stated that he needed clarification about the age of the forest and its link to invasive species.

Mr. Cinquino stated that the Salisbury resources and forest, relative to Lehigh County, makes no sense as to how this fits into context and its importance. The context should focus more on watersheds, their value and how many are located in the Township. The context should focus on the value of the natural resources and what is being protected. The NRI should state how much of the forest land is located in Salisbury Township and its importance. Mr. Cinquino stated that the value of the forest land to the Lehigh Valley and watershed should be more explicit.

Mrs. Benning inquired how much study on the endangered species (Flora & Fauna) of South Mountain is documented. It is recommended that the report provide more detail on endangered species and the dates of the studies. Ms. Sopka advised that all the studies have not been completed.

Land conservation priorities were discussed. These priorities would provide focus on areas for protection, for instance the mountain is a geological feature of importance along with the Old Indian Trail, which was not mentioned.

Discussion continued about the South Mountain Highlands and how its national value needs to be documented and further clarified to the importance of the Lehigh Valley.

Ms. Benning stated that the tributaries should be noted, named and placed on the maps for protection purposes. Mr. Cinquino stated that the LCCD did advise the EAC that they would find tributaries and map seeps and wetlands that have never been mapped; therefore, the mapping needs to be more explicit which will allow us to protect these natural features.

Discussion continued and noted that the Parks should be last on the report. The beginning of the report would be important items prioritized, Trout Creek's visual assessment and the following studies: DCNR study, South Mountain study, LVPC study, Wildland's Conservancy study and Upper Saucon study. Additional unique features include natural features, such as steep slopes and streams and how they function.

Mr. Cinquino inquired about water quality and its conclusion. The members reviewed this part and Mr. Burchard stated that studies were being done, but was unsure if the water study was

being done on Trout Creek or Saucon Creek. This water quality needs to be clarified with an analysis.

Finalization of the Annual Report of STEAC.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Cinquino discussed the presentation of the annual report to the Board of Commissioners. The report will consist of the activities and focus of the EAC for 2010 such as parks, school properties, water resources and the Natural Resource Inventory.

The annual **Allentown EAC future presentations** were reviewed for information purposes. Mr. Miller stated the he attended the **State of the Lehigh Valley** conference, along with Ms. Sopka and Samantha Dorney, a Task Force member.

Public Comments

None

Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Burchard, seconded by Mr. Cinquino, the meeting was adjourned. All in favor.