

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2010**

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 (Late), Jane Benning, Richard Niesenbaum, Commissioner James Brown, Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC and Mr. Randy Soriano, Township Manager. Glenn Miller and Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission representative, was 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 – 12/16/2009

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning to table the approval of the December 16, 2009 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes until the next regular scheduled meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Niesenbaum.

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

Ms. Sopka highlighted the Zoning and Planning Meetings for the month. In regards to Zoning, an appeal for a variance was approved for **1084 Debbie Lane** for a pre-fabricated storage shed that encroached two feet into the side yard setback. There is a 6 foot fence separation between the properties, therefore; the neighboring property owner signed off for approval.

In regards to Planning, the final site plan review for **Lehigh County Correctional Facility** located at 1600 Riverside Drive was conducted. The Planning Commission is recommending approval with certain conditions. These conditions will be documented for the Board of Commissioners review for their next meeting.

A request to consider a lot subdivision from the Borough of Emmaus parcel for consolidation with **121 White Oak Lane, Emmaus**. They are in the process of creating a walking trail through Emmaus over South Mountain which will connect to Wildlands Conservancy. In order to create this trail they would encroach on lands owned by Mr. Raven Mills. The Borough of Emmaus and Mr. Mills basically did a trade off of land which made Mr. Mills property conforming to the zoning district.

Ms. Sopka noted on the February 2, 2010 Zoning Hearing Board of Appeal for 820 Public Road. There is a request for the property to be used for commercial use. Small discussion ensued and advertising was made accordingly.

Commissioner Brown noted that the Board of Commissioners meetings will be conducted at 7 p.m. starting the first scheduled meeting in February.

Old Business

In review of the **Tree and Shrub seedling** order for spring of 2010, Ms. Sopka suggested to coordinate and designate necessary volunteers to assist and help make this project happen. Ms. Sopka is going to figure the dates for planting based on how the program works. She stated the Mr. Richard Hassick from the Planning Commission offered to help and assist in the planning stages. Discussion was made in who would lead the project, steps taken and making contacts. Mr. Burchard stated to inquire if the boy and girl scouts would like to be involved and assist and also consider the possibility of making this a joint project with other surrounding EAC's.

New Business

Re-organization of Officers for the EAC.

Ms. Benning made a motion to nominate Bruce Burchard 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. Dr. Niesenbaum seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Special Task Force. Ms. Sopka stated that this force is to nominate or recommend the general public to assist as it seems necessary and appropriate.

Ms. Sopka stated that **Ms. Samantha Dorney** has accepted to assist the EAC. Commissioner Brown stated that he reviewed her resume and is very impressive. Ms. Dorney stated that she is an educator with the Pocono Mountain School District and is passionate about educating people about the preserving nature and taking care of the environment. She stated that she has been an avid volunteer for the environment; she is involved in farming and recreational sports.

Mr. Glenn Minnick of 1802 Alder Lane has accepted to assist the EAC. He is married with three children and is very involved with his children's activities. He has recently started his own business with solar energy and most recently he is doing solar energy work with CACLV who hire energy auditors. He has much concern and interest in preserving Salisbury Township and South Mountain.

Update for the Natural Resource Inventory. Ms. Sopka stated that she has had communication with Ms. Rebecca Kennedy at the Conservation District. Ms. Kennedy stated that at the present time they are doing historical research, as well as, historical aerial photography and land use mapping. To show the progression of change, Ms. Kennedy provided the EAC with maps that was taken aerial photography from 1938 continues to 1971 and ends with 2005.

Ms. Sopka stated that there is a Main Street Initiative **Grant Program** that provides up to \$15,000 and takes care of 50% of the planning cost. Under this Grant there is a strong possibility that grant money could be provided to assist with the NRI. Ms. Sopka stated that she would

contact them, get the detailed information of what is involved and how early it can be stated if the grant would be approved. Dr. Niesenbaum offered to help and assist with writing the grant.

Mr. Cinquino inquired if a budget was in place for the NRI. Mr. Soriano stated that approval was made and not to exceed \$5,000. Mr. Cinquino inquired if the EAC can engage into professional services now that the budget is in place. Mr. Soriano stated that to engage the LCCD put a letter together with the R.F.P., get the proposal and it will be reviewed. Discussion continued and Ms. Sopka stated that she would contact Ms. Kennedy for her formalization of services with a delivery date.

Ms. Sopka advised that Lower Saucon Township is having a **Natural Resource Inventory Workshop** scheduled February 10, 2010 with a fee of \$15.00.

Ms. Sopka stated that she has received email correspondence for grant workshops. One is the **WREN funding for community educational grants** that offers up to \$5,000 and is of interest. Ms. Sopka stated that this is for the year 2010 and 2011 watershed education projects. Small discussion was made. Ms. Sopka stated that Mr. Hebelka offered to help and assist filling out this grant.

Ms. Sopka stated that she sent all EAC members the link <http://www.lunginfo.org/freeradonkit> for free **Radon Test Kits**. Ms. Sopka shared this with the EAC members to pass along to friends and family. Mr. Soriano believes that it is important to get this type of education out to the residents of the Township. Ms. Sopka inquired if the link could be put on the Township website. Mr. Soriano stated that if any education information would like to be provided an EAC column could be added on the quarterly newsletter. Mr. Cinquino stated that **an outreach program** with environmental education may be of great knowledge to residents. The outreach program could be a goal to focus on to share ideas and topics.

Mr. Cinquino stated that he has had communication with the Salisbury Press and was advised they are not able to cover the EAC meetings due to scheduled conflicts. However, Mr. Cinquino stated he believe they are open to sharing information with the residents, therefore; we could submit a press release or topic to them.

Public Comments

Mr. Glenn Minnich made reference to the PA Sunshine Program. It has a \$100 million dollar grant for renewable energy. He stated that most of the money is going for P.V. but does have a portion for solar, thermal and wind. The Municipality applies for the grant money. Mr. Minnich made an example of a wind turbine in a park to generate solar energy which could save up to 30 percent of cost and this grant gives the residents an option to buy into the turbine.

Ms. Benning offered that she did check into wind power and was advised there is not enough wind in the area because of all the trees. Discussion continued.

Agenda for Next Meeting

1. Tree and Shrub Seedling Project (project leader, volunteer list)
2. Request for Proposal for LCCD

3. Grant Programs (completion of grants)
4. Outreach Program Topics

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Cinquino, seconded by Mrs. Benning, the meeting was adjourned.