

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2012**

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, Jane Benning, Mary Ann Stinner, Bruce Burchard, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Louis Cinquino and Randy Soriano, Township Manager was 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.

Mr. Miller stated that he has received resignation, effective immediately from Mr. Louis Cinquino due to personal commitments. He expressed his thanks and gratitude towards the members of the EAC and others in the Lehigh Valley that rely and protect our township resources. Ms. Sopka stated that he will be missed. She offered that a possible replacement is under consideration.

Minutes – 12/21/2011 and 01/18/2012

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, to approve the December 21, 2011 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as submitted. All in favor.

Motion was made by Mr. Burchard, seconded by Mrs. Benning, to approve the January 18, 2012 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

Audubon Pennsylvania Bird Town. Ms. Karen El Chaar, volunteer executive director of Friends of the Allentown Parks, provided a presentation and brief history of their organization. She stated they received the Bird Towns designation in 2011. If Salisbury Township receives this status, they will be the second in Lehigh County.

Ms. El Chaar stated that the primary purpose of the Bird Town program is education to improve habitat for wild birds and bring them back into the parks. By providing designation areas, it also helps their ecosystem on which the birds depend.

Ms. El Chaar stated their goals are to keep the city parks clean. They work closest with the Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation to engage volunteers within the city, to help assist, clean up or renovate the parks.

She stated that they want to create greater awareness on the ecosystem and the ecological balance within the parks. She stated that volunteers starting doing walks through the parks with experts on certain subjects, such as the attraction between insects, native plants and the birds. Ms. El Chaar stated that they do offer educational sessions.

Ms. El Chaar reviewed the Bird Town requirements. Volunteers are to have educational sessions about anything that encompasses attracting birds into the area. To educate on how to take care of natural resources and natural water filtration using native vegetation, etc. Additionally, you are required to do a Bird Town festival which can be linked to another festival, e.g., Allentown's May Fair which is an existing festival. Ms. El Chaar stated with these types of activities you can normally find volunteer speakers, however the festival does cost the most. Commission Ackerman suggested, if possible, coordinating with Western Salisbury's Community Day festival.

Ms. Sopka stated that the Township, the City of Allentown and Lehigh County share jurisdiction of Walking Purchase Park. Ms. Sopka stated that there is a tremendous amount of variations of bird species, such as neotropicals, residents, migratory, nesting, etc. Ms. Sopka offered this information to Ms. El Chaar. She suggested a collaborative project between the Township and the City of Allentown which will focus on Walking Purchase Park.

Ms. El Chaar stated that they have done a demonstration garden in Cedar Crest Parkway. This garden gives individuals ideas to help assist them in their own gardens, opposed to using ornamental plants. The native plants serve a purpose; they maintain insects and bring in birds.

Mr. Hebelka inquired if they provide assistance for tree memorials. She stated that they do, including memorial benches.

Mr. Miller inquired if Ms. El Chaar was available for consultation if the EAC is able to move forward with this project. Ms. El Chaar stated she is always available for assistance.

Ms. Sopka stated that the Audubon Pennsylvania Bird Town application should be formalized and a presentation is to be made to the Board of Commissioners, as it requires financial assistance.

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. Mrs. Benning seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Mrs. Benning made a motion to nominate MaryAnn Stinner for Vice-Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council. Mr. Burchard seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Mr. Miller updated the members regarding the January 24, 2012 meeting with **the Salisbury Township School District regarding future coordination of efforts for joints projects** associated with the environment and educational possibilities. It was a very positive meeting with much interest. Ms. Sopka state that there has also been communication with the Swain School and St. Thomas More School. She believes there are groups in each school that would like to participate in educational forums. They are hoping to have a teacher to volunteer with each group.

Ms. Sopka stated that the **Comprehensive Plan Draft** has been posted on the website.

The 15th Annual EAC Conference is on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at the Montgomery County Community College. If interested the draft agenda can be viewed at the registration website: <http://www.pecpa.org/eac2012>.

The 2012 Great American Cleanup of PA will begin on March 1st and end on May 31st. To register your event or find an event near you, visit the Great American Cleanup of PA website. Any additional questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn, Great American Cleanup of PA Program Coordinator, at 1-877-772-3673 ext. 113 or send email to: mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

Earth Day is April 21, 2012.

Public Comments

Mr. Paul Willistein offered that one of the Salisbury Press columnists, Mr. Bud Cole, recently did an article on Wood Peckers. He stated that he has written about talks that he has done. He also provides educational walks. His email is available at the end of each of his articles. He believed that this information may be beneficial to the EAC.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment

On motion by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mr. Burchard, the meeting was adjourned. All in favor.