

**Salisbury Township  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 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, Glenn Miller, Commissioner James Brown, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Mr. Randy Soriano, Township Manager was not present. Special Task Force members in attendance: Glenn Minnick, Samantha Dorney, Sandra Thomas and Joanne Ackerman.

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 & 01/20/2010**

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning to approve the December 16, 2009 and January 20, 2010 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. 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 regard to Zoning, a Special Exception was approved for **820 Public Road** to use as a commercial entity. A Variance was also required by the Ordinance and approved to resurrect the structure from a non-conforming. There were no objectors.

In regard to Planning, the meeting was cancelled due to withdrawal of applicants.

**Old Business**

In review of the **Tree and Shrub seedling** project for spring of 2010, Mr. Minnick stated that he started the volunteer process and contacted Troubled Youth, a program for children that need to satisfy community service. There are 10 children in our community that can participate. Mr. Minnick stated that he would like to contact the high school for upcoming graduates that require community service as part of their college applications. Mrs. Benning inquired about contacting any Eagle scouts.

Discussion ensued on coordination of the seeding project, advertising for volunteers, seedling delivery date, location requirements, the guidance of Mr. Richard Hassick, seedling protection after planting, communication with the Public Works Department, refreshments for volunteers and possible donations of surrounding businesses. Ms. Sopka stated that she will get the seedling delivery date and the contact person for the PA Game Commission. She also stated that because the EAC has an agreement with the PA Game Commission, this allows the EAC to receive Blue Bird boxes for doing the plantings; therefore, she requested two boxes.

## **New Business**

**Update for the Natural Resource Inventory.** Ms. Sopka stated that she is in receipt of LCCD's scope of services. The Board of Commissioners reviewed and approved, therefore; an agreement has been reached with the Conservation District. Ms. Sopka believes that their data acquisition has been started. The fieldwork will come at a later date and may require the EAC's assistance in accessing properties.

**Natural Resource Inventory Workshop** rescheduled for March 3, 2010. Registered participants: Jane Benning, Glenn Miller, and Cynthia Sopka.

### **WREN (Water Resource Education Network) funding for community education grants.**

Ms. Sopka stated that this grant can be used as an education tool; an example is developing brochures on riparian buffers. Mr. Hebelka stated that he has worked with WREN for years and they provide excellent examples of completed projects. It is a very good but competitive grant program that provides up to \$5,000.

**DCNR community conservation partnership grants.** Ms. Sopka will inquire with the Township Manager as to the status of this grant. Mr. Burchard inquired as to the type of grant this is. Ms. Sopka stated that she believes it's for land acquisitions and to secure and protect land.

**Outreach Program Topics.** Ms. Sopka stated that if there are any topics of interest to bring them forward for discussion. A few suggestions were made:

- Clean Water Action
- Sewage Run Off
- Composting

Discussion continued and referenced coordinating a field trip to Trout Creek or Walking Purchase Park to learn and get an understanding about the area(s). Ms. Sopka stated that there is an Appalachian Mountain Hiking Group that is willing to take people on hikes. She will contact them and request an EAC hiking trip at Walking Purchase Park.

Ms. Sopka stated that Tom Gettings from the Wildlands Conservancy is a wealth of knowledge and is willing to assist the EAC. He would also be able to provide knowledge of areas with historic preservation.

Possible projects to be involved in and with other Municipalities:

- April 30, 2010 is Arbor Day, <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/>
- Great American Clean Up, <http://gacofpa.org/>
- National Audubon Society "TogetherGreen" conservation project, [www.togethergreen.org](http://www.togethergreen.org)
- Earth Day's 40th Anniversary in April 2010, [www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)

Commissioner Brown stated that he believes it is important that the EAC advertise to inform the public that the EAC exists and is requesting resident's involvement and participation.

Commissioner Brown suggested a college student to help out with a website as part of a community service. This will be looked into.

Mrs. Ackerman stated that the EAC should start an education project with the elementary schools. To consider having an EAC member visit and educate the children regarding conserving water, learning how to recycle and household composting, etc.

Upcoming Workshops, Conferences and EAC gatherings:

- Sustainable Energy Fund Workshop in the Lehigh Valley on February 19, 2010. Register on line at [www.theseef.org](http://www.theseef.org).
- Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference on April 8-10, 2010 located at Desmond Hotel, Malvern, PA. Registration deadline is March 19, 2010, [www.conserveland.us/conference/2010/index](http://www.conserveland.us/conference/2010/index).
- Allentown EAC is conducting a Sustain-A-Ball on April 10, 2010, located at Allentown Brew Works 812 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18103. Fee is \$35.00 with RSVP date of March 31, 2010.

There was small discussion regarding the Conservation Tool website. This website informs about farmland preservation, conservation easements and how to pursue them with the help of the Wildlands Conservancy, model conservation easements and agricultural conservation easement purchase programs, etc.

Website link to environmental guides.

- **Conservation Tools** provides a link to guides, article, models and publications regarding land trusts, agriculture preservation, trail group and other topics. [www.conserveland.us/features/conservationstools\\_launched](http://www.conserveland.us/features/conservationstools_launched)

### **Public Comments**

Mrs. Ackerman stated that she believes the Township should considering becoming involved in personal composting. Would the EAC consider conducting seminars on household composting at the schools or our playgrounds?

There was small discussion on composting and the individuals that could educate residents, for instance, master gardeners, Rodale, etc. Mr. Cinquino stated that he believes the City of Allentown offers composters for little or no cost. Mrs. Benning stated that she believes the City of Bethlehem has provided residents with free containers for composting. Mrs. Ackerman stated that she priced the composting container and it is expensive but believes if purchased in bulk it will be less expensive. Mrs. Ackerman offered to research and gather information for composting.

Mr. Minnich stated that Harry S. Truman holds a yearly community event called The Ice Cream Festival. Discussion was made to set up an education table on composting. Mr. Cinquino stated to also consider educating at youth sporting events.

**Agenda for Next Meeting**

1. Tree and Shrub Seedling Project Update
2. Outreach Program Topics
3. Recycling (AERC)
4. Hazardous Waste Cleanup Site
5. Community Event Education

**Adjournment**

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