

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 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: Glenn Miller, Louis Cinquino, Mary Ann Stinner, Bruce Burchard, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Jane Benning and Randy Soriano, Township Manager (excused) were not present. Special Task Force members: Glenn Minnick, Samantha Dorney and Sandra Thomas (excused) were not present.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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.

Minutes – 02/16/2011

Motion was made by Mr. Burchard, seconded by Ms. Stinner, to approve the February 16, 2011 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

Finalization regarding the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI).

The EAC reviewed and discussed their final draft of the NRI with South Mountain as a significant importance.

Ms. Sopka stated that she attended a watershed conference which was very informative regarding the designation of tree preservation off of Lehigh Mountain and South Mountain. Discussion continued and Ms. Sopka stated that while reviewing tree harvesting events, she located information about the South Mountain Preserve creating these preserved tree zones but the locations are unknown. This needs to be summarized and documented.

Mr. Hebelka stated that the Wildlands Conservancy has people that donate land, wild lands, easements, etc. and they provide a link for review. The EAC discussed this information and would prefer a summarized document of what is and is not private property instead of a link.

Mr. Hebelka stated that there is a lack of information regarding South Mountains Preserve of amphibians, Flora and fauna, and herbivores. Most of the information noted is focused on snakes. Ms. Sopka stated she was looking for the migratory zones of bats, birds and mammals

with their overlay. It is important that these be identified because if recommended in the NRI, it will give more credence in the Zoning Ordinance.

The amount of South Mountain Preserve acreage located in Salisbury Township is in question. Ms. Sopka stated the acreage needs to be referenced and identified in the NRI.

The color coding of the maps need to be better clarified to differentiate what is being reviewed: open space, park plans, wild lands, properties, school property, Township parks, County parks, etc. The EAC considered putting the maps at the end of the NRI for better reference.

It has been noted how critical Salisbury Township's ecosystems is, therefore it needs to be better clarified, for instance, watersheds, stream assessments, etc.

Ms. Stinner commented on the forest age map. This needs to be clarified as the map does not provide information regarding invasive species only invasive plant species. It should be addressed by Lehigh County Conservation District (LCCD) under species of special concern with their locations.

Mrs. Ackerman stated that she believes the NRI should be free flowing, like a story. She stated that for the average person (like herself) when reading the NRI it became confusing with many references in different sections, with different topics.

Ms. Sopka will let the EAC know of any changes made.

New Business

Comprehensive Plan Update will initiate public participation in a public meeting forum held April 26, 2011. Ms. Sopka stated that it is posted on the website; it will be advertised in Salisbury Patch, Salisbury Press, utility bill etc. Mr. Cinquino inquired as to the presentation format. Ms. Sopka stated that Comprehensive Plans must have a series of 3-4 public meetings before finalization. Mr. Hebelka offered that they present facts, history, proposals of recommendations and suggestions. Ms. Sopka stated that key person interviews have been done and a questionnaire has been developed for comment/completion which allows public participation regarding the Township.

Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference was attended by Ms. Sopka. She stated it was very informative and interesting when Frank Pazzaglia addressed Salisbury Township's different zones. He stated that South Mountain is made of land chipped off from Africa during the centennial rifting. He explained the uplifting and had a simulation of how it formed.

Forum regarding Drinking water in the Delaware Watershed go to link:
<http://www.DelawareBasinDrinkingWater.org>

Lehigh Valley Clean Water Summit to be conducted on May 21, 2011 at Bangor Area High School, 8 AM to 3 PM.

Proposed **Walking Purchase Park Cleanup** on April 30, 2011. Ms. Sopka inquired if the EAC members are available and would like to pursue the cleanup. It has been indicated that fall is the best time for clean up. She has had communication with Ms. Savage and the site is to be visited and if dumping has occurred a location cleanup should be scheduled. She stated that meetings have been taking place with surrounding participants with respect of moving forward for a grant for Walking Purchase Park. Small discussion continued about the three priorities of interest: signage, gates and cameras, and their hopeful outcome.

The 2011 **EAC Conference** is open for registration at the following link: <http://www.pecpa.org/EAC2011>. Mr. Hebelka stated that the location is at Villanova University with optional field tours Villanova Stormwater BMP projects. The full program starts at 10 AM.

LCA is offering a **Rain Barrel Workshop** on April 20, 2011 at Lone Lane Park in Allentown. Ms. Stinner and Mrs. Ackerman offered that they are attending this workshop. Mrs. Ackerman stated she inquired if grants are available and was advised that the barrels are from Coca Cola and they convert them as to what is needed and how to connect to the downspout. Ms. Sopka stated that Erin Frederick from LCCD does Rain Barrel presentations. Discussion continued about sponsoring this type of project in Salisbury. Contacts will be made.

Upper Saucon EAC is sponsoring a recycle and cleanup on Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 9 AM to Noon.

Mr. Hebelka advised of upcoming cleanups and events:

- **Earth Day 2011** – as part of Pick It Up Lehigh County on April 16, 2011, 9 AM to 1 PM at Emmaus Community Park.
- **Lower Milford Cleanup Day** – as part of Pick It Up Lehigh County on April 16, 2011, 8 AM to 1 PM at Lower Milford Township Building. **Wildlands Conservancy's Great Earth Day Cleanup** on April 16, 2011, 9 AM to 12 PM at three locations: Canal Park in Allentown, Pool Wildlife Sanctuary in Emmaus, and a stretch of the Jordan Creek near Home Depot in Allentown.
- **Earth Day at the Swain School** on April 21, 2011 8:10 AM to 11:30 AM.
- **Prescription Drug Return Event** is taking place nationwide on April 30, 2011. As of now Emmaus, South Whitehall, and Lower Milford are participating.

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.