

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 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, Jane Benning, Glenn Miller, Commissioner James Brown, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative; Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC and Mr. Randy Soriano, Township Manager. Richard Niesenbaum was not present. Special Task Force members in attendance: Samantha Dorney and Joanne Ackerman; Glenn Minnick 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 – 2/17/2010

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning to approve the February 17, 2010 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Miller.

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, an Appeal for a Special Exception for **691 State Road** was approved for an Auto Repair Garage in the C-3 Zoning District.

The Planning meeting had three items on the Agenda. **Felton & Egan Minor Subdivision located at 432 E. Emmaus Avenue** was tabled until April for the decision on the preliminary/final plan approval.

The Land Development plan for **3333 Lehigh Street** received preliminary/final plan approval and will be brought forward to the Board of Commissioners in April. The Major Subdivision/Final Land Development Plan for **3109 Birchwood Drive** withdrew until April.

Old Business

Ms. Sopka provided an update on the **Tree and Shrub Seedling** project. She stated that she made contact with the Game Commission and the indication was made that the seedlings would be delivered in the month of April. Ms. Sopka stated that she spoke with Mr. Hassick who will help guide the EAC and volunteers in the planting of the seedlings. Mr. Hassick is expecting communication from Mr. Minnick to make arrangements to meet at Walking Purchase Park and Franko Park for review of seedling placement locations prior to the date of the actual plantings. Ms. Sopka stated that she spoke with Mr. John Andreas, the Director of Public Works, for recommendation and coordination of parks seedling plantings and future maintenance.

Discussion continued and Ms. Sopka stated that she would gather anticipated dates, participants and targeted locations of placement.

Outreach Program Topics.

A topic of interest is **composting** which helps save the environment from landfills. The EAC has been provided with websites that have a great deal of composting information with links to additional resources and education on how to start composting.

Mrs. Ackerman stated that she contacted Penn State College of Agriculture and was advised that there is no grant money available for composting containers. She stated that she will continue to look into getting the containers at a reasonable price. Ms. Ackerman obtained a list of individuals that do educational speaking and is awaiting a response.

The second topic of discussion referenced **Solar Panels** and how they are monitored. Ms. Ackerman stated that **solar turbines** have become smaller for residential areas for backyard placement. Mrs. Benning inquired if **wind turbines** could be placed on South Mountain. Ms. Sopka stated that not only is South Mountain in the line of air travel, it is a tremendous bird navigation area, which causes a conflict.

Earth Day was brought into discussion. Mr. Hebelka reviewed the local municipalities that participate in the cleanup(s) and how it is run.

1. Borough of Emmaus will conduct a cleanup. Participants are to meet at Emmaus Community Park on April 24th, 9am to 2pm, rain or shine. Lehigh County Hazardous Waste will be there to collect electronics for recycling.
2. Allentown has several Cleanups that run from March 1st through May 31st.
3. Hanover Township Cleanup is April 24th.

It was noted that the EAC will try to coordinate and participate with local municipalities, and plan for a cleanup in Salisbury Township for next year. Mr. Soriano stated that the EAC must develop the idea of what will be required and submit the budget request to the Board of Commissioners for approval in September.

New Business

Ecycling (AERC). AERC is in the local area and has hosted Ecycling events in various locations that properly discard any electronic waste. Mr. Miller stated that since they are in the Township, he would like to approach them and discuss having a 2011 **community event** with their assistance. He stated that with the support and help from the EAC, the planning phase must start and advertisement considered. He stated that if possible, he would like to have a **Hazardous Waste Cleanup** in conjunction with the Ecycling event. Discussion continued and the EAC expressed approval pending further research and planning. Discussion continued in regard to Arbor Day, the Great American Cleanup and Lehigh County's annual "Pick it Up" event.

Report of the Natural Resource Inventory Workshop. Mrs. Benning stated two experts spoke, Dr. Rhoads and Dr. Block who are in continuing contact with the PA National Heritage Program. Mr. Miller stated that they went through each step on how to develop the NRI. Mr. Miller stated

that Dr. Block stressed there is never enough money to do a NRI because the work and research is continuous. Ms. Sopka did mention that the reason it is stressed is because even though we may know what our resources are, a majority of Pennsylvania's locations that are unique or may have threatened species may never have been evaluated; therefore, the PNHI or PA Historical Commission doesn't have a record of it and this is why it is extremely important to move forward with the NRI.

Update for the Natural Resource Inventory.

Ms. Sopka stated that she has been in contact with Ms. Kennedy from LCCD and they are moving forward with data collection information from other sources. When the LCCD conducts their public meeting, Ms. Kennedy will require the services of this EAC.

Mr. Cinquino stated that he would agree to be the contact person from the EAC to get a monthly update from the LCCD on the status of the NRI and report to the EAC. Mr. Miller stated that he received a power point presentation of the workshop he attended and can provide this to Mr. Cinquino and the EAC members.

Ms. Sopka stated that she has communicated with the Appalachian Hiking Group to coordinate a **hike at Walking Purchase Park**. The tentative date in agreement is March 27th for the 2 mile hike at 9:30am.

The Game Commission is **offering seedlings for landowners**. Order forms are available on the agency's website to be completed and submitted on line. For those without internet access and/or for more information contact Howard Nursery located at 197 Nursery Road, Howard, PA 16841, (814)355-4434.

Public Comments

Mrs. Janet Keim from 11 Pine Street attended the meeting to humbly request that the EAC provide a letter of support to the Board of Commissioners in their decision to purchase the School District property on E. Emmaus Avenue. Mrs. Keim offered that she has continuously tried to help with preserving South Mountain and would like this decision to move along in the right direction.

Commissioner Brown stated that in 2009 the Board of Commissioners contacted the School District advising them that the Township would like to purchase this property; therefore, a meeting will be scheduled with the School Board to discuss the possibility of the purchase. Commissioner Brown did note that there are new members on the School Board and it may change any decision they considered last year.

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning to offer a letter of support to the Board of Commissioner's in their pursuit to purchase the 48.688 acres of the School District land on E. Emmaus Avenue. Motion seconded by Mr. Cinquino. All in favor.

Agenda for Next Meeting

1. Tree and Shrub Seedling Project Update

2. NRI Update
3. Outreach Program Topics: Recycling (AERC), Hazardous Waste Cleanup Site
4. Hike at Walking Purchase Park
5. Support Letter

Adjournment

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