

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 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, Mary Ann Stinner, Jane Benning, Kreg Ulery, Bruce Burchard, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Special Task Force member: Sandra Thomas (excused) was not present.

****NOTE: ERROR – THE TAPE DID NOT RECORD THIS MEETING; THE MINUTES ARE TAKEN FROM THE MEETING NOTES. ****

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.

Minutes – 09/19/2012

Motion was made by Mr. Burchard, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, to approve the September 19, 2012 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

Lower Macungie Township Greenway Plan. A public hearing is scheduled October 18, 2012. Any comments or questions should be provided prior to October 12, 2012 directed to Sara Pandl at 610-966-4343 ext. 126.

New Business

Present was Mr. John Rodgers of the **Audubon Bird Town Program**.

Mr. Rodgers provided a power point presentation educating the members and public about bird migration and the importance of them. He stated that birds are one of our environmental indicators. Unsustainable habitats can lead to lack of insects which is a food source for the birds and when this happens it is an indicator that the natural cycles are not working together in harmony.

Mr. Rodgers reviewed the benefits of becoming a “Bird Town” designation. These benefits include beauty, habitat diversity, community characteristics, community participation and action. Training is available for landscapers with a goal of helping people to be better stewards of rainwater runoff. There are activities for the community which includes restoration of riparian buffers, bird sighting walks and

photography outings. The program also provides educational material, a citizen action program, training and experts, and Bird Town signs that can be placed in the township.

Mr. Rodgers stated that each person who participates in the Bird Town training program receives a copy of his book called "Designing with Natives". This book urges the use of native plants in residential and commercial properties.

The EAC members stated that they each fully support the project to become bird town stewards. It was concluded to formalize their proposal for presentation to the Board of Commissioners (BOC). Commissioner Ackerman will put forth the bird town designation proposal with the required \$450 annual Bird Town fee.

Ms. Sopka stated that Salisbury is separate and becoming a Bird Town will put the township on a map and give it cohesiveness. She stated that if the Board of Commissioners accepts the EAC request, the township could be a Bird Town designation by the end of the year.

The EAC discussed their **respective projects**. The members were each provided a template for project organization. This template can now be used as a guide. The project information should be in place for the December meeting.

Ms. Sopka advised that the Planning Commission made recommendation that the EAC review the environmental portion of the proposed Zoning amendments made by URDC. They are recommending that each EAC member focus on a specific area, then coordinate with the EAC their findings, comments and suggestions.

Mr. Burchard handed in his resignation to the EAC. He stated that he can no longer serve on the EAC due to his work commitments. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Burchard for his service on the advisory council.

In regards to the Thanksgiving Holiday the members discussed cancelling the November 21, 2012 meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Burchard, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the EAC approved to cancel the November 21, 2012 meeting. All in favor.

Additional Information

To review the progress on the Lindberg Park Master Site Plan please visit the link: <http://urdc.com/client-pages/lindberg-park-master-plan/home>.

There is a **Growing Greener Grant** available. Consider this as a potential project. <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/growinggreener/13958>

Multi-Municipal Planning & Community Sustainability Grant. The purpose of this program is to support the creation and implementation of multi-municipal plan in conformance with PA Municipalities Planning Code. The program is being administered by the Local Government Academy (LGA) with funds from the Heinz Endowments. For grant program guidelines visit: http://www.localgovernmentacademy.org/main.asp?ID=40&utm_source=September+2012+WREN+E-News&utm_campaign=September+2012+E-news&utm_medium=email.

The Center for Communities by Design is pleased to announce the release of the 2013 SDAT Application Packet. The final deadline for application submission for consideration is Friday, November 16, 2012. [Http://www.aia.org/about/initiatives/AIAS075426](http://www.aia.org/about/initiatives/AIAS075426).

Public Comments

None

Agenda for Next Meeting

There will be no meeting for the month of November. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Adjournment

The EAC motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned. All in favor.