

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2009**

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, Richard Neisenbaum, Commissioner James Brown, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission representative and Ms. Cynthia Sopka (Secretary to the EAC).

Ms. Sopka called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Sopka announced that all sessions of the Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Counsel regular meetings are electronically recorded as required by the By-laws and for the purpose of taking the Minutes.

Minutes – 9/16/2009

Ms. Sopka advised there is no quorum; therefore, there is no formal meeting. The minutes will be voted on at the next regular scheduled meeting. Ms. Sopka also noted there was an electronic glitch that occurred with the second recording tape and a portion of that meeting could not be transcribed.

Agenda Review

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 regards to Zoning, she advised that the Zoning Hearing Board approved the request of a variance for an in-law addition which encroached into the required rear yard setback at 333 Nicole Circle. The expansion is being built to take care of the resident's ailing mother. Ms. Sopka advised it was a minimal setback with no objections from the neighbors.

Ms. Sopka reviewed the meeting of the Planning Commission for **Devonshire Park Apartments** at 1601 33rd St. SW. She advised that the Planning Commission will recommend to the Board of Commissioners a denial for the waiver request for recreation fees for land development of age restricted garden apartments.

Ms. Sopka reviewed **Crossroads Baptist Church** at 1860 E. Emmaus Ave. The Planning Commission will evaluate lot consolidation and review the land development plan for the auditorium and parking lot expansion.

PADEP Erosion and Sedimentation Control. Ms. Sopka advised that on October 5, 2009, the Township hosted a meeting sponsored by PADEP regarding erosion and sediment control regulatory changes.

Old Business

Ms. Sopka inquired to the EAC what their thoughts were in regards to the thank you letters sent

to the previous EAC representatives who presented to this committee. Mr. Burchard stated he felt the letters were very nice and inquired if the gesture will be expressed to Ms. Rebecca Kennedy. A small discussion ensued on her presentation to Salisbury Township. Mr. Burchard noted that he was very impressed.

Ms. Sopka expressed that Mr. Niesenbaum did a fantastic job condensing the EAC's priority areas of interest to communicate with the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Sopka stated that the priorities need to be formatted before the Board of Commissioners is approached. This decision will be tabled until the next regular scheduled meeting due to the lack of persons present.

A small discussion developed in regards to which member would approach the Board of Commissioners to address the NRI and areas of interest. The members present strongly recommended Mr. Cinquino. They believed he would do a wonderful presentation for the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Burchard offered that he would gladly team up with him. This decision will be tabled until the next regular scheduled meeting.

New Business

Discussion to address the PA Game Commission Farm Game, Forest Game and Safety Zone programs for tree and shrub seedling order for the spring of 2010. Mr. Burchard expressed this would be a great idea for the residents of Salisbury.

Mr. Hebelka inquired if the Township allows hunting on any of the public land, such as Walking Purchase Park or Franko Park. Commissioner Brown stated that archery is permitted at both. Since hunting is permitted, Mr. Hebelka believes the Township is either enrolled or a participant in the PA Game Commission Forest Game program. Ms. Sopka inquired if this would be applicable for the Township. Mr. Hebelka believes it should be applicable but inquired if the plantings must be on those specific properties. The permitted location of the plantings must be clarified. Ms. Sopka stated she would contact the Game Commission.

Mr. Hebelka noted that there are other programs available. The Conservation District occasionally has seedling offerings and another program is Tree Revitalize. This information should be looked into for the future. Mr. Burchard stated learning about this now and trying to develop public interest for next year may be very beneficial. Another idea would be to try to get the interests of the schools and develop a planting program.

Mr. Hebelka referred to a newspaper article he read in last week's paper about tree planting taking place on Keystone Avenue along the Little Lehigh. Mr. Burchard stated he believes it is the City of Allentown participating in plantings along Cedar Beach for the riparian buffers. He believes they could only plant in specific locations.

Ms. Sopka advised the EAC that, with regret, **Mr. Frederick Brock must resign from the STEAC** due to his work schedule which fails to allow him to attend the meetings. Mr. Brock did offer, if requested, to assist and review the update to the comprehensive plan. Ms. Sopka will send a letter to him thanking him for his participation and looks forward to continued participation, if able.

Mr. Niesenbaum inquired on the replacement of Mr. Brock. Ms. Sopka advised she is aware of a person still of interest. Commissioner Brown advised Ms. Sopka to provide this person's name and address to the Board of Commissioners.

Letter preparation to the Board of Commissioners requesting consideration of the assistance of Ms. Rebecca Kennedy and the Lehigh Conservation District for guidance in preparing the NRI.

Ms. Sopka believes it is a separate element but is affiliated with the priorities; therefore, she will put informative information together and provide the Board of Commissioners with this and request their input. Ms. Sopka believes it is important to get Ms. Kennedy active with the STEAC as soon as possible.

Mr. Hebelka addressed the City of Allentown Source Water Protection. Mr. Hebelka noted he currently works with the DEP on the Source Water Protection Plan. His program is with public water suppliers and they develop plans for them to protect their raw water. The City of Allentown has four sources: Crystal Spring, Schantz Spring, Little Lehigh intake and Lehigh River. Lehigh River is a back up reserve source. The program involves and identifies the area that contributes water to those particular sources. Surface water intake and water sheds are easy to identify but springs or wells are more complicated. Once the contributing areas are identified, they then identify all sources of contamination. The potential sources of contamination susceptibility are ranked and a management plan is then developed.

Mr. Hebelka noted on a few areas where springs have been located. There was a short discussion about the quality of water and the pollutants, such as, drugs, caffeine, antibiotics, chemicals, etc. that are being located in the water, which is having an impact on the aquatic eco system.

Mr. Hebelka also stated that this Saturday, Berks County Solid Waste Authority is holding a **pharmaceutical take back program** which is extremely difficult to do. They want to educate the public on why medication should not be flushed and the affect that it has going into streams.

Ms. Sopka highlighted events for the month of October/November.

1. Ms. Sopka noted she signed up for registration of better communities through **Smart Growth** held through the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.
2. The Natural Lands Trust conducted a **Grasslands Field Trip** on Saturday, October 17, 2009. The trip began at Natural Lands Trust's Hildacy Farm Preserve.
3. The Natural Lands Trust is holding a workshop: **Open Space Design and Stewardship** on Thursday, October 22, 2009.
4. The Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association invites the public to attend a **live bat program** on Friday, October 23, 2009.
5. The **Lehigh Valley EAC Conference** is Saturday, November 7, 2009. This year's conference is focused on building EAC capacity. It helps EAC members improve relationships with elected

officials, fundraising, understand projects more clearly, organizations, and initiatives happening in the Lehigh Valley.

Mr. Hebelka offered that he attended the **Lehigh County Watershed Meeting** two weeks ago. Rebecca Kennedy conducted the meeting through the LCCD. He advised there were a lot of EAC members present and he will bring the agenda in at the next meeting.

Mr. Hebelka noted that the state is holding an Act 220 Meeting, which is our **State Water Plan Meeting**. The Delaware Regional Committee will be meeting on November 9, 2009 at 12:45 for business meeting. The public meeting is 2 p.m. and the public hearing is 3 p.m. located at the Roadway Conference Inn, Route 22 and 309. The State Water Plan has been trying to identify watersheds from a water quantity perspective. They have been experiencing shortages for the past five years. Three watersheds have been identified in the Delaware basin that will be nominated to become critical water planning areas.

Mr. Burchard inquired about the stream designations. Mr. Hebelka stated that this would be more of a water quality type designation and that Act 220 is dealing with water quantity. Mr. Burchard inquired if it is mostly caused from a population growth. Mr. Hebelka stated it is a variety of factors such as that, plus loss of impervious surface, etc.

There was small discussion on waste water and bio-solids. Mr. Hebelka stated that 20 years ago the bio-solids were being dumped off shore. Ms. Sopka believed that there is still ocean dumping taking place. Mr. Hebelka stated there are processes to cleanse the water for re-use.

Public Comment

None

Agenda for next meeting

Tree Planting

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Burchard, second by Mr. Hebelka the meeting was adjourned.