

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2015**

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: Kreg Ulery, Glenn Miller, Jane Benning, Mary Anne Stinner, Karen El Chaar, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Task Force member: Robert Agonis and Katherine Velekei.

Mr. Ulery called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Mr. Ulery announced that all sessions of the Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Council (STEAC) regular meetings are electronically recorded as required by the By-laws and for the purpose of taking the Minutes.

Minutes – 02/18/2015

On motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Benning, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the February 18, 2015 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 of January. The Zoning Hearing Board was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Old Business

Ms. Sopka stated that the **Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit** project will be deferred until 2015 due to weather limitations. It was stated that Mr. Steve Saffer from **Lehigh Valley Audubon** is working on programs to get native trees that can be used as giveaways. Since the EAC is planning on making this project educational it was recommended to give one native tree to each family that volunteer.

New Business

Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) and STEAC involvement.

The recommendation letter to the Board of Commissioners regarding the role of the STEAC on the MS4 education and public outreach was discussed at the March 12, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. It was noted that the MS4 mandates are beyond the scope of the EAC and do not have the capabilities to oversee it.

The anticipated work on the **Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit** is to commence in April 2015 (weather permitting) which should also coincide with the **EAC Earth Day** recognition.

Ms. Laura Hopek, Watershed Coordinator from the Lehigh County Conservation District will provide guidance and presentation to include rain gardens and environmental education opportunities that support the MS4 projects.

Preparation for the **Clean-up of Walking Purchase Park** is scheduled for April 26, 2015.

There has been a decline in street trees over the past several years. One reason is due to improper planting. As a means of offset to this loss, it is requested that the EAC consider utilizing a grant from Tree Vitalize to remediate loss. <http://www.treevitalize.net/index.aspx>

Ms. Sopka stated that she has been in contact with Tree Vitalization which is a two-step grant. The first grant was missed as it had a January deadline; however, the next grant available is in June. There is a possibility to try and get the \$5,000 grant which is focused on street trees.

Lehigh County Authority (LCA) is offering another free rain barrel workshop on Saturday, April 11, 2015, with slots available at 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The event is almost full, but there are 30 spots remaining and wanted to reach out to past participants. If you or a friend/neighbor are looking for a rain barrel (FREE), please contact the service@lehighcountyauthority.org to request a spot at their workshop. The event and barrel are free, but registration is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Additional Information

Public Comments

Friends of the Allentown Parks received notice of organization that would like to do an all day activities on April 26, 2015 to clean up Walking Purchase Park which again has had illegal dumping. They organization has over 1,000 volunteers. They were hoping to pull in about 100 volunteers over a few hour time frame (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) to work on cleaning up this park. Ms. Sopka did advise the cameras have been installed.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Provide recommendation to the Board of Commissioners following guidance from Kevin Frederick and Laura Hopek on MS4 public outreach and education.
Salisbury Township Municipality detention basin retrofit project.

Adjournment

On motion by the EAC the meeting was adjourned. All in favor.