

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 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, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Task Force member: Robert Agonis and Katherine Velekei. Karen El Chaar was not present (excused).

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 – 04/15/2015

On motion of Mrs. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the April 15, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. 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 April. The Zoning Hearing Board reviewed a variance for 1902 Potomac Street regarding accessory structures exceeding the minimum of 1,000 S.F. The Planning Commission reviewed a minor lot subdivision for 1561 Seidersville Road and a review of the proposed amendment to Honey Bee Keeping in the Zoning Ordinance.

Old Business

Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit.

Ms. Sopka advised that she met with Rebecca Kennedy and Erin Frederick. They have advised her that the invasive species such as the Japanese knotweed and poison ivy needs to be removed. They recommended using goats instead of harmful herbicides. The goats are very thorough, however all rooting will need to be excavated.

Ms. Sopka stated that the research she did showed that Hawk Mountain was using goats to get rid of Japanese stilt grass and knotweed. She said using the goats is very efficient when it comes to vegetation removal. This type of removal is supported by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Schuylkill Conservation District.

The cleanup and restoration of the fenced in basin is funded by a \$15,106 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Stewardship Watershed Protection. Using the goats is a traditional method of removal which will not require the utilization of herbicides which can contribute to environmental toxins and harmful runoff.

Walking Purchase Park Cleanup Update.

The EAC discussed the cleanup at walking Purchase Park that took place on April 26, 2015. It was a great success with many volunteers of all ages. There were 4 dumpsters that ended up being filled and there was still much debris left along Riverside Drive. Mr. Ulery took pictures to have a photographic record and provided a slide show.

The EAC talked about a volunteer group to periodically monitor the park for illegal dumping. They weighed out the pros and cons. The cameras would have to be reviewed regularly. This would be a necessary inquiry to the Chief of Police. The increase of fines for illegal dumping in the City of Allentown was a topic. The EAC would like to speak with Ms. El Chaar about this topic at the next meeting.

New Business

Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) Public Participation and Education.

The EAC discussed the MS4 involvement in the public participation and education program, the two of six Minimum Control Measures (MCM) to enforce the MS4 program mandated by United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Agonis presented his Clean Water Act compliance report. This is the mission of the EAC to help implement the Clean Water Act on a local level. To educate the residents of Salisbury Township and encourage public participation. Mr. Agonis stated that the EAC must come up with measurable goals as Salisbury Township has primary waterways such as the Lehigh River, Little Lehigh and Trout Creek.

Mr. Agonis stated he wrote this document for three different audiences: the EAC, public and government officials. This document is creating a message for Salisbury Township and will help the EAC how to manage their portion of the MS4 properly. He included mascots modeled after the Falcon Mascot from the school district, and gave them nicknames after the Salisbury Township parks: Lindy (after Lindberg Park) and Franko (after Franko Park). He stated that they could use these mascots to help educate the public.

Mr. Agonis provided Best Management Practices (BMP) and outlined examples of how other municipalities are handling MCM's. He stated that complying with the Clean Water Act is important in Salisbury Township. All information, enforcement, implementation, and participation that the EAC does will be documented and filed.

Salisbury Township School District meeting on June 10, 2015. The EAC will provide a list of different topics that they would like to work with the school district on. They will indicate what the EAC is involved with and inquire if they are interested in receiving this information to share with students, staff, friends, and families.

Salisbury Township Municipal Building Stormwater Basin Retrofit. Ms. Sopka met with the Director of Public Works. She addressed some preliminary work that needs to be done in the storm water basin. The removal of diseased trees, gravel, soil, and invasive plants. They will also removal and secure the cattails for later planting.

Consideration to apply with **Tree Vitalize for a Street Tree Grant** that is due in June 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>

Public Comments

Agenda for Next Meeting

Salisbury Township Municipality detention basin retrofit project.

Adjournment

On motion of Mrs. Stinner, seconded by Mr. Ulery, the EAC meeting was adjourned. All in favor.