

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 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 Char 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 – 07/15/2015

On motion of Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the July 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 June. There were no submissions to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Planning Commission reviewed notification of a minor change to the site plan of Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) parking lot; review of 2110 and 2120 W. Mosser Street Minor Lot Subdivision; review of 1211 Salisbury Road Minor Lot Subdivision; and review of zoning amendments.

Old Business

Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit.

Ms. Sopka stated that Mr. Josh Wells has been hired to apply “round up” on the Japanese knotweed. He has the necessary certification as required. The spray on the knotweed is reaching the roots of the invasive plant. Once the termination of the knotweed is completed the grading of the land will be scheduled. Erosion & Sedimentation controls will be put in place followed by the necessary grading of the basin with the hope that planting of various native woody shrubs and native grasses will start sometime in October. The Penn State Master Gardeners and the Lehigh Watershed Steward’s will be actively involved with the basin retrofit.

New Business

The EAC will have open discussion with residents regarding **storm water issues**. Ms. Sopka stated that this will be listed as new business each month as well as provide a format to allow residents to voice their concerns or impacts from storm water issues as well as provide a venue to document their complaints or concerns.

Mr. Miller offered that in 1987 when he purchased his property, there was a stormwater drainage ditch that ran through Devonshire Park, which apparently was part of the diverted stream bed. He indicated that when it rains there is still water flowing through the ditch. However throughout the years, the drainage swale has filled with more sediment. The Township had placed large stones throughout various sections of it and currently it is starting to flood. There has not been any clean up of the drainage area for several years. Further inquiry was made into where this water discharges. The thought is the water flows into the Little Lehigh River.

Mr. Miller stated this area (drainage area) should be noted on the MS4 map. The primary question from Mr. Miller is who would assume responsibility of maintenance of the drainage. Mr. Miller recommended this issue should be researched.

Mr. Kevin Stanley, resident, stated their area of concern was downstream behind Mr. McAuliffe's property. It travels the old trolley line and discharges into resident's property. Mr. Stanley stated that he put in water bars to help eliminate the water build up. Mrs. Stanley stated that with PPL cutting the trees in the right-away exacerbated the water runoff.

Green Corridor Project Presentation.

Mr. John Rogers, an environmental consultant, provided a power point presentation regarding environmental preservation based on economic factors.

Salisbury Township has been asked to participate in the Green Corridor Project. This project is groundbreaking initiative for generating a green redevelopment of the international bridge corridor linking Canada and the United States. It provides sufficient habitation to support wildlife, often within urban development.

He stated that he has done this presentation for other counties. He offered that Salisbury Township and the Lehigh Valley region is positioned perfectly to participate in the project because of the location.

Mr. Rogers pointed out that the environment needs to be protected. Those born in the early 2000's have much greater concern for the environment then those born in the "baby boomer" time. Land use planning is the highest value of Best Management Practice (BMP).

He stated that the Lehigh Valley area is one of the best outdoor recreation areas in the Country because about 75 percent of residents in the area participate in some type of outdoor activity. That part of the economic benefit of a robust environment is outdoor recreation.

He provided additional information on nature exposure, environmental obstacles, terms of carbon dioxide and the air quality, the battle between developers and environmentalists and EPA workshops.

Discussion incurred and Ms. Sopka stated that the EAC does not take on projects on their own, that recommendations and guidance is provided to the Board of Commissioners of how this would be of value to the township and seeks approval. Mr. Miller inquired if a presentation can be provided to the Planning Commission. However, there is concern on fitting this project into the planning/zoning commission.

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

Mr. Agonis stated that Ms. Sopka provided information a form from the Watershed on How to Report Water Pollution for Illicit Discharge Reporting. In that, he offered that he has met with all of the Commissioners at various times to discuss and review illicit discharge reporting with them. He did this because a township reporting form needs to be established and use, unfortunately there is no mechanism in the township to process this, as we need an ordinance for BMP plan needs to be considered.

Western Salisbury Fire Company's Community Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015.

Public Comments

Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment

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