

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2016**

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, Rodney Conn (excused), Jane Benning, Mary Anne Stinner, Karen El Chaar (excused), Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC and Task Force members Robert Agonis and Katherine Velekei (excused).

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

Approval of the Minutes

On motion of Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the April 20, 2016 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 May 2016.

The Zoning Hearing Board addressed 2460 Parkwood Drive, The Pidcock Company requested a variance from Section 307.2.C.d. Table of Requirements to address a conflict in the Commercial District (C-1 zoning district relative to setbacks). Applicant requested interpretation of the setbacks as they appear in the 2014 Zoning Ordinance.

The Planning Commission reviewed Zoning amendments; granted final approval for The Pidcock Engineering Company's Preliminary/Final Lot Consolidation; made recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to approve The Pidcock Company's Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan; and approved the Preliminary/Final Minor Lot Subdivision for 2402 and 2410 S. Filbert Street.

The Board of Commissioners meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

Walking Purchase Park Cleanup that took place on Sunday April 24, 2016 resulted in a large number of volunteers. The volunteers worked from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Additional volunteers from Faith Church helped from Noon until 4:00 p.m. The illegally dumped material/debris filled up 2 ½ dumpsters. Mr. Ulery provided pictures to the township and to Faith Church of the volunteers cleaning up the debris. Mr. Ulery indicated he was apprised by Mrs. El Chaar regarding the interest of Faith Church Volunteers for participation in a 2017 cleanup of Walking Purchase Park in conjunction with a proposed invasive plant removal at the park.

Mr. Agonis provided a recommendation letter to the Board of Commissioners urging a minimum of \$300 fine be set for illegal dumping/littering in Walking Purchase Park. The fines are capped at \$300 with the maximum fine only \$1,000. He is proposing fines be based on a \$30 per pound rate which includes costs for cleaning up the illegal dumping.

Mr. Agonis stated that the rate of illegal dumping in Salisbury Township is disastrous. Salisbury Township is an easy target specifically in the remote area of Walking Purchase Park. He indicated the polluted runoff from the illegally dumped trash flows directly into the Lehigh River.

Ms. Sopka recommended that the EAC simplify the information addressing the issue of illegal dumping in our parks for the benefit of the BOC. It would be appropriate to summarize the facts about the illegal dumping as well as provide recommendations on how to alleviate the activity of illegal dumping. Mr. Ulery indicated he utilized the document as prepared by Mr. Agonis regarding illegal dumping and summarized it into a one page information piece. Additional information could be gathered from the original document prepared by Mr. Agonis. Ms. Ackerman recommended a summarized document should be prepared regarding the issue of illegal dumping, the suspected reasons for such actions and then make recommendations how to remediate the problem. Additional discussion addressed a recent House Bill 973 that dealt with illegal dumping and fines. The status of the Bill is unknown at the time of this meeting.

Ms. Ackerman recommended having a meeting with Fountain Hill and Bethlehem officials.

Cynthia Sopka indicated communication with the urban forester of the City of Allentown regarding street tree removal. They have enacted a policy to charge for the cost of the tree removed since some of the trees are over 100 years old and considered irreplaceable. They are in the process of educating the local District Judge to increase the fines associated with trees that are illegally removed and often over 100 years old.

Ms. Sopka held a meeting with the City of Allentown regarding the names and addresses of individuals who illegally dumped items at WPP. The information was provided to the City of Allentown since both individuals were living within the City. The materials were dumped on the Salisbury Township side of WPP.

New Business

The EAC will continue to have the opportunity for the public to discuss **storm water issues (MS4)**. 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. Please contact Mr. Nicolo, MS4 Coordinator, with any questions or concerns at 610-797-4000.

Ms. Sopka reviewed the EAC bylaws and discussed the protocol of EAC representatives. It was stated that the EAC members shall work in unison as a team and not individually.

Mr. Agonis provided an update on the Laubach Park/Franko Farm Committee meeting that was held on Monday, May 16, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the Township building to review the update on the **Laubach Park Master Plan and Franko Farm Park Master Plan**. They are incorporating the suggestions that came from the attendees at the public meeting. One clarification is on the east

side of the park where the residential homes are located were under the assumption that there was a “paper alley” between the park and residential property. The park property abutts the residential property.

They also discussed the lights in the Laubach Park. Stating the parks are not to be accessed at dusk. It was noted that during fall season it gets dark very early and the Salisbury Youth Association (SYA) uses this park for fall sport practice.

Commissioner Ackerman stated that after the money is well spent to redo the parks, public works needs to maintain these parks properly.

<http://www.salisburytownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/park-master-plan-041816.pdf>

The **Annual Cherry Blossom Festival** scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. located at Cedar Beach/Cedar Creek Parkway provided an opportunity for the STEAC to address MS4 information on items such as storm water, rain gardens, and rain barrels. Rodney Conn assisted with the STEAC information.

The 175th Anniversary Celebration of Bogerts Covered Bridge is Sunday, June 12, 2016. The STEAC was giving an opportunity to participate in this event. The STEAC had a commitment from the Master Watershed Steward to assist with this program.

Ms. Sopka stated she was doing some research and she came across information called **What Happens To Rain After It Falls**. It provides information on redirecting downspouts and using rain barrels. Ms. Sopka stated that she was hoping to get a small WREN Grant. This information is a great resource to our township residents.

Announcements

Public Comments

Adjournment

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