

**Salisbury Township  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 20, 2017**

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, Jane Benning, Mary Anne Stinner, Karen El Chaar, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Task Force member Katherine Velekei.

Mr. Kreg 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 by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. El Chaar, the Environmental Advisory Council approved the August 16, 2017 meeting minutes as amended.

**Report of officers and committees (including BOC, PC, Manager and /or**

**Planning/Zoning**): Zoning Hearing Board – There was an appeal to the zoning hearing board regarding a property 87 Chestnut Hill Road, Emmaus located in the CR district that had steep slopes and would be developed by the applicant. The project was continued to October 3, 2017. The Zoning Hearing Board heard the appeal from Jeffrey and Rebecca Russell requesting a variance from §306 Table of Permitted Uses that allows for a single family dwelling as the principal building on a property. The applicant proposed to incorporate the existing residence for the care of their parents however the Zoning Hearing Board recommended the applicant submit a minor lot subdivision to allow a new home to be built on their property and remain under their ownership. The property consists of 16 acres and is located in the R-2 Low Density Residential Zoning District.

Planning – The planning commission reviewed two sketch plans: 2686 SOUTH FOURTH STREET, SALISBURY TOWNSHIP - Review the proposed Sketch Plan for the Land Development for Roche Painting located on 2686 South Fourth Street, Allentown PA. The site is vegetated with some steep slopes within the site. The property is located in the C-2 Zoning Neighborhood Commercial District and also includes a portion of the land located in the R-4 Zoning Medium Density Residential District.

400 EAST MOUNTAIN ROAD, ALLENTOWN, PA - Review the proposed Sketch Plan for property located within the Conservation –Residential (CR Zoning District) of Salisbury Township that consists of 18 acres of land. The property once served as an Outdoor Recreational facility that included a clubhouse, Pavilion, and an indoor facility to host events. The proposed project would include four (4) story residential buildings that would equate to 144 dwelling units as well as include a club house and outdoor recreation area.

**Old Business** Ms. Sopka stated that the EAC needs volunteers to help remove some of the invasive Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife and help plant some spice bush and other native plants- please contact the Township if you are available to assist as volunteers are needed.

The Stormwater basin is in need of more native plants to be planted within the basin and also along the top of the basin. Please contact Cynthia Sopka at [csopka@salisburytownship.org](mailto:csopka@salisburytownship.org) if you have some plants to share.

Discussion ensued regarding the basin and Ms. Sopka stated to tag the plants that should not be removed. Ms. El Chaar attempted to get volunteers from Cedar Crest College. Mrs. Ackerman stated she needs to inform the Board of Commissioners about the Stormwater basin project and the need to have some Public Works employees to assist with removing of invasive plants and weeds.

The EAC recommended that Ms. Sopka create a Memo for the Board of Commissioners regarding assistance of Public Works to assist on maintaining the basin.

### **New Business**

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

Township has proceeded to purchase the Watershed nonpoint source pollution Enviroscape. This will be a vital tool at community events and provide educational aspects of the impacts of Stormwater on communities.

Mr. Ulery wanted to discuss the issue of invasive plant removal. Mr. Ulery indicated he received information that would be very helpful as he spoke with the State/Chief Botanist Weed Scientist from New Jersey and the State Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Ulery stated he spoke to the Chief Botanist Weed Scientist, Ms. Libhart regarding the invasive species. The Purple Loosestrife beetle is one of the biologic controls that they have for the past 20 years. Purple Loosestrife has been identified in the basin. Attempts to remove the weed is difficult, however the amount of Purple loosestrife in the basin is manageable.

There is a new organism for Japanese Knotweed and Giant Knotweed, there are beetles that eat the plants. This organism has been approved. The trial programs will be tested in the year 2018. This is also a biologic controlled beetle.

Mr. Ulery spoke about putting an illegal dumping Ordinance together with a fine of \$3,000, but unfortunately he is only seeing smaller fines for the illegal dumping.

Mr. Ulery indicated the Spotted Lantern Flies are spreading throughout. Several communities are experiencing a large amount of the SLF.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Lehigh County is sponsoring a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection event on Saturday, October 28. You **MUST** pre-register. A description of the event is on [www.lehighcounty.org](http://www.lehighcounty.org) (the

link to the event is: [https://home.lehighcounty.org/bookit/HHWEvent/HHW\\_Intro.aspx](https://home.lehighcounty.org/bookit/HHWEvent/HHW_Intro.aspx) - click the **Reservation Request Form** button at the bottom to pre-register). This information is now posted on our website and posted in the Salisbury Press.

This Saturday, Sept. 23, is the Fall Migration Fest at Lehigh Gap Nature Center. The Lehigh Gap Nature Center may prove to be an excellent resource/partner to help educate township residents about not just the value of native plants in landscapes, but also in how to incorporate them. The Fall Migration Fest is a terrific event with a full schedule. Check it out at [http://lgnc.org/event/migration-fest-2/?instance\\_id=375](http://lgnc.org/event/migration-fest-2/?instance_id=375).

Salisbury Township EAC needs to find volunteers to assist with the Western Salisbury Fire Department Community Day scheduled for September 23, 2017 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please contact Cynthia Sopka if you are available to assist with the program. Please call Cynthia at 484-661-5831.

Salisbury Township EAC needs to find volunteers to assist with the Eastern Salisbury Fire Department Community Day scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 3 PM. Please contact Cynthia Sopka at 484-661-5831 if you are available to assist with the program.

The Salisbury Township EAC as well as Salisbury Township Employees have been involved with discussions to address the current policy of the Salisbury Township Street Tree Ordinance. The EAC will be working on addressing the issue of our Street Tree Ordinance with the hope of streamlining the process, incorporating native trees and evaluating street trees in conjunction to those that are located in the Electric Right of Way. The intent is to find recommendations to address Street trees since they are often disappearing due to age, improper locations, underground utilities, etc.

The EAC hopes to provide "Recommendations to the Salisbury Township BOC to Curb Illegal Dumping". Robert Stiffler who works with Lehigh County made a recommendation that the EAC make a presentation to the City of Allentown and the Lehigh County relative to the illegal dumping occurring at Walking Purchase Parks.

A discussion ensued on the educational component of the detention basin such as identifying the types of native plants and the value they provide to the pollinators, bird species and other wildlife. Kreg Ulery addressed the value of the Kiosk that would provide an educational component to the Stormwater detention basin and the value of the plants. We anticipate an Eagle Scout will assist the EAC with the construction of the Kiosk.

Landscaping of the Township Municipal Campus was discussed. If there are any individuals who would like to provide additional plants to support the native plantings in the basin please contact Cynthia at 484-661-5831.

### **Announcements -**

#### **Adjournment**

The EAC meeting was adjourned. All in favor.