

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2010**

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: Bruce Burchard, Louis Cinquino, Jane Benning, Richard Niesenbaum (late), Glenn Miller (late), Commissioner James Brown, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative; Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC and Randy Soriano, Township Manager. Special Task Force members in attendance: Sandra Thomas; Samantha Dorney, Joanne Ackerman and Glenn Minnick were not present.

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

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

Minutes – 4/21/2010 and 5/19/2010

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning to approve the April 21, 2010 and May 19, 2010 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Burchard. All in favor.

Natural Resource Inventory Public Meeting.

Present were Rebecca Kennedy, Watershed Specialist and Erin Frederick, Conservation Program Specialist, both with Lehigh County Conservation District; Bill Sweeney, Program Supervisor from Jacobsburg Environmental Center and Timothy Dugan, Assistant District Forester from the DCNR Forestry Department.

Ms. Kennedy, Watershed Specialist, gave a brief power point overview of what has been completed to date. Ms. Frederick, Conservation Program Specialist, along with EAC member Mr. Cinquino, completed a visual assessment of Trout Creek that will be presented. Ms. Kennedy stated that she would point out tasks to be accomplished, and tasks that the residents and EAC members can assist the LCCD in accomplishing.

Ms. Kennedy stated that they did quite a few days of field work and focused on the critical wilderness type habitats in the spring. She addressed the egg masses (future salamanders) that are nesting in vernal pools which naturally fill up on a seasonal basis. Ms. Kennedy stated that they observed springs and seeps, and explained why these are critical areas to protect. She stated that if one area is affected, it dramatically affects the hydrology and ecology of everything downstream; therefore, these impressive areas need protection, and have been documented and placed on the maps.

Ms. Kennedy stated that they accumulated a list of native plants they have found in many areas; unfortunately, these plants are threatened by invasive plants. However, some of the invasive plants serve habitat needs to nesting song birds, etc. Ms. Kennedy stated that they will recommend that the Township consider creating strategies to address the invasive plants and species which will help maintain the integrity of critical areas. Ms. Kennedy stated that with this information a natural plant inventory is underway and will be added to the natural resource inventory. There was brief discussion regarding how the food chain works with the invasive species and plants, etc.

Ms. Kennedy gave a brief indication of the found bird inventory in Walking Purchase Park. She also stated that the bird population on the mountains are extraordinary and worth preserving. Mr. Sweeny, Program Supervisor, offered that he was amazed at the bird inventory found from observation at Walking Purchase Park.

Ms. Kennedy stated that they are using maps from the 1930's, 1970's and 2005 showing the change in land use in the Township. She spoke of digital mapping and explained the digital evaluation data and the symbols that it represents. Mr. Dugan, Assistant District Forester, stated that this is a high-priority region as there is more forest now than during the agricultural era.

Ms. Kennedy stated that she plans on doing a few more field visits that will include evaluating Township parks. She also stated that she has much interest in Trout Creek because it has many unusual features. A brief discussion continued and she noted that any residents that would like an inventory done on their property and/or would allow access from their property, or who would provide any information that would be valuable to the Natural Resource Inventory, to please contact the Township or herself.

Ms. Frederick, Conservation Program Specialist, gave a presentation of her site visit at Trout Creek which flows from east to west and is parallel to Emmaus Avenue. She stated that there are several eroded areas with stream side invasive plants. There is a majority of the stream that is lined with grown riprap and concrete walls. Many individual have been using the stream bank area as a waste dump. In one area, within the stream, there is a significant amount of trash, sediment piles, construction debris and rock dams which can cause bank erosions.

Ms. Kennedy concluded that the value of the Natural Resource Inventory will provide very detailed definitions in what these features are (i.e. seeps, springs, vernal pools, etc.) and will be useful for regulatory purposes in zoning and SALDO. These definitions will help protect these features. The final report is expected in by the end of the year.

Mr. Burchard inquired, with the assessment of Trout Creek, if there will be recommendations on how to maintain and stabilize this area, and if grant money is available for this type of project. Ms. Kennedy stated that stabilizing information will be provided but in regard to grant money, she could not project if state and federal funding would be available due to economic times.

Mark Boyd from the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society offered that he has been keeping a bird inventory of Walking Purchase Park and has reported over a 160 species of different birds, no less than 70 nesting. He offered this information to the EAC for the National Resource Inventory

and stated that it is very hard work and takes time, and would appreciate any assistance available. Ms. Sopka offered her services which he greatly appreciated.

Ms. Sopka stated that she would appreciate any resident attending this meeting to please forward this learned information to others. If any resident would like to participate in providing information and/or has any expertise in any of these areas, their assistance with the inventory would be appreciated.

Ms. Sopka stated that there is a cleanup for Walking Purchase Park scheduled for June 26, 2010. Any persons that would like to participate can still volunteer and contact her directly.

Ms. Sopka stated that the EAC has had discussion about having a workshop specifically for addressing specific issues. One issue is timber harvesting with respect to stewardship plans and what the process involves. In reference to this, Mr. Dugan offered to be an education tool.

Public Comments

None

Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Burchard, the meeting was adjourned. All in favor.