

**Salisbury Township  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 17, 2009**

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, Richard Niesenbaum, Jane Benning, Commissioner James Brown, Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission representative; Ms. Cynthia Sopka, Director of Planning and Zoning; and Mr. Randy Soriano, Township Manager.

Ms. Sopka called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

**Minutes – 5/20/09**

The May 20, 2009 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

**Bylaws Draft Update**

Mr. Hebelka made suggestion to void item #8, as elections of officers is covered under article 6 item #1. Item #8 indicates that the EAC shall elect the Chair, but Act 148 requires the Board of Commissioners to designate the Chair. It also indicates the EAC shall elect the Secretary, however, under article 6 item #4 the Secretary will actually be the Township Manager or his/her designee. These items are conflicting.

Commissioner Brown advised the Chair and Vice Chair of the EAC was mentioned at the Board of Commissioners meeting, and all Commissioners approved. Commissioner Brown advised in the adopted Ordinance of Salisbury Township, it states that council members terms of office shall expire on the first Monday of January, following the last year of term of office. Mr. Hebelka recommended the first month of each year the council shall provide the Board of Commissioners recommendation of a designated Chair person.

Ms. Sopka advised she would like to see more clarification in regards to #8, article 8 order of business for meetings. Her suggestion is to clarify Board comments and Council comments on Agenda.

**Discussion on presentation of EAC meeting.**

The EAC discussed the order of the meetings. First roll call, approval of minutes, agenda items would be discussed and updated. Also, if noted, old business and new business with the public comment after each item on the agenda, discussion of items, and if necessary a summary of communications for issues, Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Soriano did advise under the Sunshine law, public notice must be advertised of the upcoming meeting one week in advance.

### **Discussion on Comprehensive Plan for Salisbury**

Ms. Sopka indicated she has not received an update to see if we are approved for the Grant. She is aware of the time criteria if the Grant is received. Mr. Soriano indicated the Grant is for 2010. Once you receive the grant, there are timelines that must be met.

Ms. Sopka suggested the EAC review the County's master plan and compare Salisbury Townships Comprehensive Plan for conformity. As we consider the Townships' growth potential most of the vacant parcels are located on the mountain and are complicated with steep slopes. Another concern associated with steep slopes includes those parcels located on the mountain ridge that were re-zoned for higher density residential uses.

Discussion ensued regarding the South Mountain Study at which time Mrs. Janet Keim indicated copies might be available at the LVPC for \$2.50.

Mr. Soriano stated that focus on certain topics is something that will require Board of Commissioners approval. Mr. Hebelka stated that interest in specific issues or concerns should be made to Board of Commissioners before extensive resources as expended. Only if the Board of Commissioners shares the interest then the EAC can pursue research and provide educated recommendations.

### **Discussion on the Natural Resource Inventory**

Mr. Soriano advised moving towards the aspect of focusing on the Natural Resource Inventory. This is information that the future consultant will need. Ms. Sopka advised the council, if they'd like, she will invite Rebecca Kennedy, Watershed Coordinator from Lehigh County Conservation District, to one of the meetings.

Mr. Cinquino suggested setting priorities on the key environmental issues that are facing the Township. Also, another way to set priorities is to invite other members from adjoining EAC's to talk about their projects, such as Emmaus, Upper Saucon, Lower Macungie, etc.

Ms. Sopka suggested inviting Lower Macungie EAC when we have other established EAC members available for discussion.

### **Additional Discussion Information**

Mr. Hebelka referenced his involvement in many environmental activities, and stated he is a member of the "**Master Well Owner Network**" in Pennsylvania where there are no construction standards for private wells. He suggested future discussions toward sharing his knowledge regarding this issue because many Salisbury residents rely on private wells and on-lot sewage systems.

Ms. Sopka suggested the council should evaluate outdoor wood burners, small scale household windmills, and solar panels since many people are now becoming interested in these alternative energy sources and our ordinances are not prepared to address these issues.

Dr. Neissenbaum indicated he will be attending the Sustainable Energy Conference at the end of July and will provide information to the council.

### **Communications of Issues / Planning / Zoning**

Ms. Sopka advised she initiated a stop work order on 1930 Church Road because located in the CR district. Township records indicated three homes; one unit was converted into two dwelling units. Response to a complaint resulted in finding a total of three dwelling units in the converted home. All homes are connected to one septic which is currently being update. The Zoning Hearing Board voted in favor of the applicant.

The Zoning Hearing Board approved the requested variance at 1824 Paxford Road which is an R4 district to allow an addition that would encroach four feet into his rear yard setback, and two inches into the side yard.

The Zoning Hearing Board approved the requested variance of St. Thomas More Church at 1040 Flexer Avenue located in the R3 district. The variance allowed the addition to encroach 14 feet into their side yard setback which abuts residential district. Interpretation was needed to address the requirement of buffering as referenced in the Zoning Ordinance.

With respect to the Planning Commission plan reviews included the land development of St. Thomas More Church 1040 Flexer Avenue and 1601 S.W. 33rd Street which is the Devonshire Park Apts. for determination of the detention basin design standards located within carbonate geology.

Mr. Soriano suggested that in addition to Ms. Sopka's report, they obtain Planning Commission Minutes to get a better overview.

### **Future Agenda Items**

1. Provide the EAC with Planning Commission Minutes, research and present model Ordinances for outdoor wood burning, small scale windmill, and solar panels.
2. Commissioner Brown recommended the group go to another Municipality EAC Meeting to see how they run their committee.
3. Consider review of zoning compatibility between Salisbury Township and abutting Municipalities.
4. Form committee groups and share ideas on priorities and tips.
5. Each Council member to come up with three priorities.

Ms. Sopka advised if any one has recommendations for the Agenda, it would be advisable to have it developed two weeks prior to meeting, and finalized one week prior for advertisement.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Janet Keim addressed she feels it is extremely important on water shed protection. There is 3,000 acres of South Mountain water shed within Salisbury Township boundaries, and almost an equal amount in Upper Saucon.

Ms. Keim offered she came for informational purposes. In regards to a Salisbury Residents ban on water use by the Lehigh County Authority, she feels there should be no restriction. She offered that Lehigh County Authority would like to continue digging more wells within the basin/aquifer. Lower Macungie Township, their residents, along with the City of Allentown, did fight them regarding this because the wells they are digging are reducing the stream flow/base flow to the Little Lehigh. Most Salisbury residents receive their water from the Little Lehigh. The stream has run dry in the past. She provided copies for review.

Ms. Keim offered another issue is the raw sewage disposal from manholes. Sewage is dumped into the streams every time it rains. There is leaking lines into the streams, therefore, exceeds its capacity. She provided copies for review.

Andy Boehme and Thomas Boehme, Boy Scouts, offered their concern for clean water and what they try to do to keep streams clean.

Motion by Mr. Burchard, seconded by Mr. Cinquino the meeting was adjourned.

*Sincerely Presented by Cynthia Sopka*