

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 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, Glenn Miller, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Randy Soriano, Township Manager and Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative (excused) were not present. Special Task Force members: Glenn Minnick, Samantha Dorney and Sandra Thomas were not present.

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

Mr. Burchard 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 – 10/20/2010

Motion was made by Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mr. Cinquino, to approve the October 20, 2010 Environmental Advisory Committee 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 and Planning Meetings for the month with status updates.

Old Business

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) to conduct Educational Workshop Projects. Ms. Sopka had communication with Abigail Pattishall, Director of Rivers with Wildlands Conservancy, regarding educational workshops and her request for the finalized topics. Ms. Sopka stated that the chosen finalized topics criteria must be affiliated with the small educational grant.

Ms. Rebecca Kennedy, Watershed Specialist with the Lehigh County Conservation District (LCCD) provided an update of the **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)**.

Ms. Kennedy provided a list of workshops for the upcoming year regarding watersheds, rain gardens, native plants, bird migration and is considering a lawn naturalization workshop. She offered to provide this information to the EAC members and if interested they should contact her directly.

Mrs. Ackerman inquired if there would be a composting workshop. Mrs. Ackerman offered her interest and how to help educate Township residents. She stated that she has been doing research and inquired on how to obtain a rotating compost bin that does a breakdown within a certain time frame. She stated that she is aware of the cost but inquired if there are grants available. Discussion occurred.

Ms. Kennedy presented land use change. She stated that they have done an analysis and provided land use maps that show change from 1938 to current. She stated that they had to start with the year 1938 because that was the earliest photos available. There was a small discussion regarding forest analysis.

Ms. Kennedy stated that the final map for the NRI will show visuals, colored markings (dots) showing seeps and springs that they located. The map will indicate, by color, areas that were physically visited and which were not, and if the property was accessible.

Ms. Kennedy addressed invasive species that are decimating the Township and the areas disturbed by encroached invasive plants. She stated that they would like to do an Invasive Plant Pilot Control Project in two different areas of Salisbury Township, focusing on Franko Park and Dodson Park. They would like to rid invasive plants that are located in a contained area to monitor and determine the expense over a five year period. Ms. Kennedy advised the EAC members of grant funding that may be available for this project. She stated that her request of the Township would be to provide chemicals necessary to spray and the licensed applicator. If this would be a project consideration and approved by the Board of Commissioners, the LCCD would use invasive plants professionals from the DCNR and Penn State University.

New Business

The Cora L. Brooks Foundation announces the availability of 2011 grants for watershed projects. This is taken into consideration for the discussed environmental educational workshops and proposed projects that would include students from the School District. The grant shall be reviewed for the required criteria, its time restraint and addressed to the Board of Commissioners. If approved and a location has been established, communication should be made with the School District as well as the science instructor.

Mr. Burchard inquired what the project would entail. Ms. Sopka responded stating that they would be doing a restoration of Trout Creek's embankment. Discussion continued regarding the area and condition of the creek, expense, assistance, tools and time frame for project completion.

The PADEP is accepting applications for Environmental Educations Grants. The EAC members had conversation about educating the residents on solar energy (sustainable energy sources). Mr. Burchard inquired if the Township could participate in this type of energy source, if grants/funding would be available would there be an offset of cost to the Township. Conversation continued regarding what could be done to warrant the expensive for the Township.

The EAC Bylaws. Ms. Sopka advised that an Annual Report must be prepared by the end of the year and to review Article VII regarding preparation and address any future projects of interest/focus.

Walking Purchase Park Cleanup. Ms. Sopka advised the EAC members of the clean up and its success. Ms. Sopka stated that the individuals, organizations and County employees that donated products and their time have great work ethics and need to be commended. She stated that the

project was a regional project and volunteers came from all over and were compelled to come together and achieve great success.

Public Comments

None

Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment

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