

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2015**

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, Glenn Miller, Mary Anne Stinner, Karen El Chaar, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Task Force member: Robert Agonis and Katherine Velekei. Not present was Jane Benning and Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative (excused).

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

Mr. Ulery 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.

Minutes – 11/19/2014

On motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, to approve the November 19, 2014 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes as submitted. All in favor.

Minutes – 12/17/2014

On motion of Mr. Miller, seconded Mrs. Stinner, to approve the December 17, 2014 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, Planning and Board of Commissioners Meetings for the month of January. The Zoning Hearing Board approved the appeal for a home daycare at 1439 Exeter Road. The Planning Commission (PC) reviewed the Flower Tent at the South Mall which was approved. A Minor Subdivision at 1452 East Emmaus Avenue incorporating the subdivision of one existing parcel with two residential structures currently constructed on one parcel. Southbury Park Preliminary/Final Plan for Lot Consolidation and Re-subdivision on several lots. A Minor Subdivision and Lot Consolidation for Country Club Road and Re-subdivision for Western Salisbury Fire Company and Swain School.

Old Business

Ms. Sopka stated that the **Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit** project will be deferred until 2015 due to weather limitations. It was stated that Mr. Steve Saffer from **Lehigh Valley Audubon** is working on programs to get native trees that can be used as giveaways. Since the EAC is planning on making this project educational it was recommended to give one native tree to each family that volunteer.

New Business

Re-organization of the EAC.

Mrs. Stinner made a motion to nominate Kreg Ulery for Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council. Mrs. El Chaar seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Mrs. El Chaar made a motion to nominate Glenn Miller for Vice-Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council. Mrs. Stinner seconded the nomination. All in favor.

The **EAC Annual Report** to the Board of Commissioners has been finalized and submitted to the Board of Commissioners (BOC).

Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) and STEAC involvement.

The MS4 mandates are beyond the scope of the EAC and do not have the capabilities to oversee it. The MS4 program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) which has federal oversight from the EPA. It pertains to PA DEP to improve surface waters by reducing pollutants transported through runoff into the storm sewer system during rainfall. The Township does not have a choice to comply with the MS4 program or the Township will incur daily fines for noncompliance; therefore, leading the EAC to the request of a part-time person.

The EAC finalized the formal recommendation letter and request that Salisbury Township hire a part-time person to administer and enforce the portions of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) MS4 mandate. The EAC can handle the first two mandates which are public education and outreach/involvement.

On motion of Ms. El Chaar, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the recommendation letter to the Board of Commissioners to hire a part-time person to administer and enforce the portions of the Environmental Protection Agency's MS4 Compliance. All in favor.

The anticipated work on the **Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit** is to commence in April 2015 (weather permitting) which should also coincide with the **EAC Earth Day** recognition.

Ms. Laura Hopek, Watershed Coordinator from the Lehigh County Conservation District will provide guidance and presentation to include rain gardens and environmental education opportunities that support the MS4 projects. This will be discussed at the next meeting as Ms. Hopek was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

There has been a decline in street trees over the past several years. One reason is due to improper planting. As a means of offset to this loss, it is requested that the EAC consider utilizing a grant from Tree Vitalize to remediate loss. <http://www.treevitalize.net/index.aspx>

Ms. Sopka stated that she has been in contact with Tree Vitalization which is a two-step grant. The first grant was missed as it had a January deadline; however, the next grant available is in June. There is a possibility to try and get the \$5,000 grant which is focused on street trees.

Additional Information

Public Comments

Friends of the Allentown Parks received notice of organization that would like to do an all day activities on April 26, 2015 to clean up Walking Purchase Park which again has had illegal dumping. They organization has over 1,000 volunteers. They were hoping to pull in about 100 volunteers over a few hour time frame (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) to work on cleaning up this park. Ms. Sopka did advise the cameras have been installed.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Provide recommendation to the Board of Commissioners following guidance from Kevin Frederick and Laura Hopek on MS4 public outreach and education.
Salisbury Township Municipality detention basin retrofit project.

Adjournment

On motion by the EAC the meeting was adjourned. All in favor.