

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 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, Jane Benning, 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.

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 – 04/15/2015

On motion of Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the May 20, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. 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 May. The Zoning Hearing Board reviewed a variance for 3119 West Emmaus Avenue regarding accessory structures exceeding the minimum of 1,000 S.F and 1700 Riverside Drive regarding appeal for variance and special exception for proposed USE of truck and trailer repair at Harris Rebar facility. There were no submissions to the Planning Commission.

Old Business

Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit.

Ms. Sopka stated that Rebecca Kennedy and Erin Frederick recommended the use of the goats to remove the invasive plants and poison ivy in the Municipalities storm water basin. Ms. Sopka moved forward with that recommendation and received approval of the Township Manager, Mr. Soriano.

Ms. Sopka indicated that the goats were grazing successfully in the detention pond and the roots from the Japanese knotweed will need to be dug out and removed. Additionally the diseased trees outside the perimeter of the gated basin would have to be removed.

Ms. Kennedy did advise that once the goats complete the project and are removed, the knotweed will still take root for three years and needs to be removed to the greatest extent possible, woodies and grasses will need to be planted in the area the knotweed was removed because broadleaf pesticides will be needed and applied, because as the knotweed grows back it is easier targeted with these plantings.

Walking Purchase Park was discussed. The EAC discussed cameras be placed at each entrance of Walking Purchase Park. There was recommendation of the installation of rumble strips on the road surface of the Allentown portion of the park. It will slow down vehicles that may have the intent to litter. Ms. El Chaar urged that the fines be \$500-\$1500 as opposed to the \$300 littering fine that the township already has in place. Ms. Sopka advised that his recommendation needs to be made to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

New Business

Presentation by Ms. Rebecca Kennedy, president of the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley regarding aspects of how representatives for the Master Watershed Steward program can help guide the STEAC on MS4 criteria such as public participation and public education.

A master watershed steward must complete 40 hours of training and 50 hours of volunteer service. She stated that after the first year the steward status is maintained by 20 additional volunteers hours and 10 hours of continued education. The program will take you on the field or in the class room. They move these sessions around to different locations in the Lehigh Valley because they want to connect individual volunteers to different locations and environmental centers that are available.

There are materials, personnel and programs that are available to assist the STEAC in full-filling the first two MS4 requirements.

Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) Public Participation and Education.

This is the mission of the EAC to help implement the Clean Water Act on a local level and educate the residents of Salisbury Township and encourage public participation. The EAC must come up with measurable goals as Salisbury Township has primary waterways such as the Lehigh River, Little Lehigh and Trout Creek.

Mr. Agonis presented a finalized copy of his Clean Water Act compliance report. Footnotes were added as suggested. Measurable goals regarding the Minimum Control Measures (MCM) and Best Management Practice (BMP) are listed with quantifiable measurements that would document meetings, projects, goals, etc. The list would cover all projects that are completed and forward to the BOC. All information, enforcement, implementation, and participation that the EAC does will be documented and filed.

He provided forms from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website. Mr. Agonis stated that he completed one of these forms as a he witness the draining of water from a neighborhood swimming pool that was discharging thousands of gallons and was uncertain if the water was chlorinated. An illicit discharge report was filled for MS4 files and provided to Ms. Sopka.

Mr. Tetterer, Keystone Engineering, is initially in charge of the MCM points three to six and will oversee the project for the next six months.

Salisbury Township School District meeting on June 10, 2015. Ms. Sopka stated that the meeting was very positive. The EAC provided a list of different topics that they are interested in coordinating with the school district. Some of the projects included utilization of grants associated with Project Learning Tree, applying for a small grant with Edge of the Woods as an educational tool for young children on native plantings and the creation of a rain garden. Information was shared regarding assistance on projects from the Lehigh County Conservation District (LCCD), the Master Watershed Stewards program and the Master Gardener program. There was a brief conversation about coordinating additional projects such as an electronic recycling program.

There was agreement that Ms. Sopka would be the source of communication with the school district.

Salisbury Township Municipal Building Stormwater Basin Retrofit. Ms. Sopka met with the Director of Public Works regarding some items that will need to be addressed such as the removal of dead trees and utilization of a tree shredder. The project will also incorporate securing the cattails for later planting.

Consideration of apply for a **Tree Vitalize for a Street Tree Grant**. 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>

Public Comments

Agenda for Next Meeting

Walking Purchase Park Cameras and rumble strips.

Salisbury Township Municipality detention basin retrofit project.

Adjournment

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