

**Salisbury Township  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 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, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC. Task Force member: Robert Agonis and Katherine Velekei. Karen El Char was not present (excused).

Ms. Sopka 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 – 06/17/2015**

On motion of Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the June 17, 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 June. The Zoning Hearing Board reviewed a variance for 455 East Rock Road regarding accessory building conversion of an existing garage to “livable space” for a family member in CR zoning district. Project was denied. There were no submissions to the Planning Commission.

**Old Business**

**Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit.**

Ms. Sopka stated that goats have been removed. A small crew of township staff and the public works department staff will coordinate a work start date for the excavation/removal of the Japanese knotweed and poison ivy roots, diseased trees, gravel, soil deposits, and the removal and securing of the cattails for future planting.

Most new plantings will have to be done in the fall season. The 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.

**Update on Walking Purchase Park.**

Ms. Sopka stated that there were approximately 400 volunteers that helped clean up **Walking Purchase Park** throughout the day and night. There were two 30 yard dumpsters filled to capacity, one and one half truckloads of electronics, 200 tires, 20 - 30 flatbed trailer loads of trash, eight to ten dump trucks of trash including debris, mattress, carpentry items, hot tubs, and a car tank that still contained gas. This portion was located in Salisbury Township. Ms. Sopka stated that she is going to try and get in touch with the “blue crew” to help clean up the electronics that are located near the water.

**New Business**

The EAC will have open discussion with residents regarding storm water issues. Ms. Sopka stated that this will be new business each month, consider it an open invitation for any resident that needs to speak in regard to storm water issues and documentation will be made.

### **Updates on Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) Public Participation and Education.**

Mrs. Stinner was in communication with Mr. Dev Kannan, Salisbury Township Fire Inspector/Volunteer, regarding providing information to the residents at the West Salisbury Fire Departments Community Day event that is held in September. The EAC is interested in providing information about watersheds and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Clean Water Act. Utilization of Rain barrels for use in the yard was also discussed.

Ms. Ackerman inquired if the township website can be used as a teaching/educating tool for the residents regarding the MS4. She believes that the EAC should provide to the Board of Commissioners exactly what the EAC needs for the website and to use it as an on-line teaching element.

Mr. Hebelka inquired if a monthly "blog" could be put in the Salisbury Press regarding the MS4 to provide continuing education.

Additional discussion included applying for a **Tree Vitalize Grant which is due July 30, 2015**. 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/SubGrant.aspx>.

**Laubach Master Site Plan** was discussed. It was noted that if any kind of planting should be done, they would recommend native plants. The Laubach pond was also discussed and stated that most of the water comes off Lehigh Mountain and is channeled, mostly through resident's yards, into a stormwater inlet and discharges into the pond. Ms. Sopka stated Lehigh Mountain consists of multiple ground water seeps that constitute additional flow along with storm water flow.

Mr. Ulery reported on the meeting with Ms. Sopka and Mr. Randy Dietrich regarding the cameras located at **Walking Purchase Park**. Mr. Dietrich addressed the locations and limitations of the existing cameras due to the lag time to activate the cameras. He indicated it would be beneficial to the park to construct two speed pumps that are spaced four feet apart to allow time for the cameras to activate themselves and capture pictures of vehicles passing through the park. An additional recommendation was for signage to be posted at all entrances that would reduce the speed limit to 20 mph and include the following: **REDUCE SPEED ZONE TO 20 MPH, CAUTION WATCH OUT FOR HIKERS AND BIKERS ALONG THE ROADWAY**. Additional discussion also focused on updating and amending the littering fines associated with illegal dumping within the park.

The EAC also discussed the consideration of additional cameras to be placed throughout the road of Walking Purchase Park. Two options were considered, applying for the grant with Keep Pennsylvania Clean or purchase additional cameras to be camouflaged throughout the park. Additional discussion included partnering with Wildlands Conservancy to assist the Township with managing the cameras and helping to monitor the park.

### **Public Comments**

### **Agenda for Next Meeting**

### **Adjournment**

On motion Mrs. Stinner, seconded by Mrs. Benning, of the EAC meeting was adjourned. All in favor.