

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 16, 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: Glenn Miller, Jane Benning, Mary Anne Stinner, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC and Task Force member, Robert Agonis. Kreg Ulery, Karen El Chaar, and Katherine Velekei were excused.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Miller 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 – 08/19/2015

On motion of Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the August 19, 2015 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 August. There were no submissions to the Zoning Hearing Board. The Planning Commission reviewed notification of a minor change to the site plan of Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) parking lot; review of 2110 and 2120 W. Mosser Street Minor Lot Subdivision; review of 1211 Salisbury Road Minor Lot Subdivision; and review of zoning amendments.

Old Business

Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit.

Ms. Sopka stated that the “round up” that was applied only on the outer portion of the basin on the Japanese knotweed. She stated that she needs volunteers to remove the Purple Loosestrife that is mixed in with the Cattails in the certain of the basin.

Erosion & Sedimentation controls will be put in place followed by the necessary grading of the basin with the hope that planting of various native woody shrubs and native grasses will start sometime in October. The Penn State Master Gardeners and the Lehigh Watershed Steward’s will be actively involved with the basin retrofit.

New Business

The EAC will have open discussion with residents regarding **storm water issues**. Ms. Sopka stated that this will be listed as new business each month as well as provide a format to allow residents to voice their concerns or impacts from storm water issues as well as provide a venue to document their complaints or concerns.

Mrs. Benning provided an update regarding the **Western Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department Community Day** on September 12, 2015. Representatives of the EAC and Lehigh County Master Watershed Program were in attendance to address storm water issues. She stated that the fire department was very kind, helpful and well organized. It was believed there were approximately 200 participants.

Preparation for the Eastern Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department Community Day is to be held in October 2015. The EAC would like to participate in this day as well. Mrs. Stinner stated that she will contact the representatives from Lehigh County Master Watershed Program and ask them to participate in this event as well.

Weather permitting the Township plans on starting the work in the basin. As stated the removal of purple loosestrife, removal of diseased trees which are less than 4 inch diameter (hemlock trees that didn't survive), the removal and securing of the cattails for later planting will be done mechanically, removal of soils and gravel, and then the removal of remaining of the Japanese Knotweed.

Mrs. Benning asked the EAC to consider inviting Mr. Scott Cope of the Wildlands Conservancy to attend an EAC meeting to discuss partnership opportunities with Wildlands Conservancy regarding our MS4 initiatives. It was advised by Ms. Sopka that we would need to have a specific project then request assistance from Mr. Cope. The discussion further included considering Mr. Tettemer from Keystone Consulting Engineers to provide the EAC with an update on MS4. However it was later recommended that the EAC attend the Board of Commissioner meeting to hear the next MS4 update from Mr. Tettemer.

Ms. Sopka indicated that on September 2, 2015 she and Mr. Agonis accompanied Mr. Randy Ziegenfuss, Salisbury Township School District Superintendent and Ms. Lynn Fuini-Hetten, Assistant Superintendent of Salisbury Township School District gave a tour of Walking Purchase Park and Dodson Park. They were very supportive of the EAC and discussed future potential educational projects that would incorporate visits to the parks as outdoor educational opportunities with the students. They were interested in the bird species that come through Walking Purchase Park. Ms. Sopka stated that she would provide a listing of those bird species and would continue communication with the school district.

EAC discussed the possibility of getting a small grant for a small habitat garden on school district property for the students to care for. Wildlands and/or Master Gardens could help guide us with a small project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Gardening for Migration is Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Doug Tallamy, Ph.D. will talk about Gardening for Migration at Lehigh Gap Nature Center.

Native Garden Program with Ms. Kate Brandes, Environmental Scientist, from Lehigh Gap Nature Center and Master Gardener. Participants will create a small garden design for their own residence. Each participate will receive \$25 coupon for native plants. The following dates for Ms. Brandes talks are September 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Allentown Public Library, September 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Easton Public Library and October 23, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Moravian Historical Society. To register, www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-home-garden-design-tickets-17812379306.

Public Comments

Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment

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