

**Salisbury Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 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, Jane Benning, Mary Anne Stinner, Karen El Chaar, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, and Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC and Task Force members 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 – 10/21/2015

On motion of Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the October 21, 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 October. The Zoning Hearing Board and Planning Commission had no meetings scheduled. The Board of Commissioners meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

Salisbury Township Storm Water Basin Retrofit.

Ms. Sopka stated that the project has been moving slowly. The silt sox has been installed to prevent dirty water leaving the basin. Excavation will continue when the basin is dry. Work has been done on the upper portion of the basin by removing fencing and dead trees.

At this time grading of the northern portion of the basin continued and relocation of large stones had been performed around the graded area where proposed seating will be located. The walkway to the site will meet the requirement of the American with Disability Act (ADA). The seating area will have tall ornamental native grasses along with native shrubs. The Audubon Bird Town sign will be placed in this area. The proposed Kiosk that will identify the funding of the project and mapping of plants/names will also be located in this area.

New Business

The EAC will continue to have open discussion with residents regarding **storm water issues (MS4)**. 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.

Mr. Sandy Nicolo, appointed MS4 Coordinator, Assistant Zoning Director and Code Enforcement Officer requested the EAC make a **formal adoption of the Plan Development of the MS4 Public Education, Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement Program.**

Mr. Ulery praised Mr. Agonis' documentation of the Public Education Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement Program he submitted to the EAC in June of this year. It provided a list of measurable goals and included a tracking sheet and hyperlinks of all information completed by the EAC.

This document needs formalization of adoption. It was discussed that the measurable goals may change as time goes on depending on what projects are taking place.

On motion of Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Benning, the Environmental Advisory Council voted 5-0 to formally adopt the MS4 Public Education, Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement Program as submitted by Mr. Robert Agonis, EAC Task Force Member. All in favor.

Mr. Agonis provided an update on the proposed **Laubach Park/Franko Farm Master Site Plan** meeting that was conducted on November 16, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Agonis stated that Dodson Park will now be incorporated in to the Master Site Plan for Laubach Park and Franko Farm. URDC is stating that there is only a \$14,000 difference to incorporate Dodson Park. During discussion they stated it was wise choice to incorporate the additional parks as you are getting more for less money. This meeting consisted of what is going to go where, for example, Laubach Park may lose tennis courts but they could be relocated to Frank Farm.

URDC provided a sketch of a walking trail for Laubach Park. The east side of Laubach Park has neighboring property encroached into Laubach Park. The Township will provide the property owners with the correct property lines as a survey will be done.

The next meeting scheduled meeting with URDC is January 18, 2016 at 6:30 PM. This will be the first meeting to incorporate Franko Farm Park in the discussion. This is a public meeting and all suggestions for the parks are welcome.

Incorporating the additional parks does change the time schedule. Meetings will continue into July. The first public presentation for the Master Site Plan is tentative for August of 2016.

Mrs. Ackerman and Mrs. Benning stated that they would like to put together information regarding the importance of trees and educate the residents regarding the value of trees and their value in stormwater control along with providing vital wildlife habitat. The EAC agreed that a viable and interactive website would be a critical tool in educating residents.

Announcements

Salisbury Township School district is inviting Township Residents to join the District on Saturday, December 5, 2015 between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM for the First Annual Community Breakfast to include Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Coffee and Juices. Reservations are required by Tuesday December 1st, 2015 at www.stsd.org/breakfast or call 610-797-2062 ext. 1000

Mr. Hebelka stated that the LCCD will be hosting a workshop on illicit discharges as it pertains to MS4. The LCCD did hire a watershed specialist and also an environmental educator. Mr. Hebelka also indicated the Lehigh River along with other Pennsylvania Rivers are presently competing via voting by the general public to be named River of the 2016 Year Award. Please provide your votes for your choice of rivers to receive this prestigious designation.

Public Comments

Inquiry was made by a resident in regards to the timber harvesting taking place off of South Pike Avenue. Ms. Sopka advised that the applicant went through all proper requirements for approval. The forester provided an erosion and sedimentation plan to the Lehigh County Conservation District (LCCD), Salisbury Township and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

Ms. Sopka advised that the State of Pennsylvania permits tree harvesting in all districts. Timber harvesting is also done for sustainable forestry.

Mrs. Karen El Chaar discussed an event that occurred at the Allentown Rose Garden. Mrs. El Chaar indicated an apparent disconnect between children as they view parks strictly for the play area and don't take part in the environmental component of the parks. During the event it was observed that children and adults do not see the environmental aspect of Parks and how integrated parks are relative to plant life, trees, wildlife, birds and the continued perpetuation of the cycle of life for humans, animals, trees, plants and water. She indicated the value of Teachers initiating the environmental aspect of our parks. She noted that 67 middle school students were introduced to a park and about 41 of those students relegated their activity to only the playground. There were only about 2 children who engaged in the environment associated with the park by recognizing the various trees, plants, birds and the natural environment. Mrs. El Chaar recommended that EAC's could help contribute to the schools and teachers by stressing the need to introduce young children to the external environmental classroom such as parks, as a means of teaching children about the importance of nature.

Adjournment

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