

**Salisbury Township  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 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: Kreg Ulery, Jane Benning, Mary Anne Stinner, Karen El Chaar, Commissioner Joanne Ackerman, BOC liaison, Cynthia Sopka, Secretary to the EAC and Sandy Nicolo, MS4 Coordinator, Assistant Zoning Director and Code Enforcement Officer. Task Force members Robert Agonis and Katherine Velekei were present. Mr. Miller was not present.

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 – 11/18/2015**

On motion of Mrs. Benning, seconded by Mrs. Stinner, the Environmental Advisory Committee approved the November 18, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Excavation has ceased due to the accumulation of water in the basin but will resume when the basin is dry, most likely late spring early summer.

Mr. Nicolo provided information regarding the access path to the sitting area was being adjusted to meet the requirements of Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Mr. Nicolo indicated that tree and plant debris had been cleaned up and hauled away. The silt sock was in place to prevent any sediment laden water from being released from the site.

**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.

Ms. Sopka indicated that Mr. Miller had resigned his position on the EAC. The opening was scheduled to be posted on the website.

Ms. Sopka stated that she is currently working on the draft of the **EAC Annual Report**.

Ms. Sopka stated that she received communication from Lehigh County Conservation District (LCCD) regarding the joint **rain barrel workshop** sponsored by the conservation district for the benefit of Salisbury Township and South Whitehall. The preparatory meeting will be held January 11, 2016 at 9a.m. at the LCCD. In addition to the meeting, we should also try to recruit volunteers to help preparation of the rain barrels. It is anticipated that the workshop will be held either in March or April of 2016.

Ms. Sopka indicated Laura Hopek had secured a grant for the rain barrel workshop. Mrs. Ackerman suggested having a rain barrel placed at the municipal building which would allow residents an opportunity to see what it looks like and how it works. It was a recommendation to get the school involved to have the students paint the rain barrels. Mrs. El Chaar indicated it would be a benefit to include students to assist with painting some of the rain barrels. She indicated Cedar Crest College may afford space for the painting event.

Recommendations on possible grant “**2016 Lehigh Valley Greenways Mini Grant**” – this information was sent to the council on 12/4/2015 for evaluation to see if we should engage in a project of this nature. Ms. Sopka had a brief conversation with the school district regarding the mini grant that would support various projects namely a green way trail along the school border with Trout Creek. Several options for a project could be green corridor along Trout Creek, Official Map that would address natural features and potential for conservation along with the consideration for a model ordinance.

Mrs. Ackerman raised the question of educating school children about the value and purpose of rain barrels. Reference was made to Sandy Nicolo regarding MS4 education. Cindy indicated the LCCD has a watershed coordinator and an environmental educator to assist with presenting to the school students. In addition the Master Watershed Stewards are often available to assist with education.

Ms. Sopka indicated the school district has access to various levels of environmental education such as the quality of Trout Creek, the need for riparian buffers, potential for construction of rain gardens, native habitat gardens and provide a discussion on the erosion of the stream bank. Mr. Nicolo indicated the average person does not understand where the storm water goes and what is transported via the storm water. Mrs. Benning indicated we should provide information to residents on proper mulching of grass. The EAC discussed creating educational flyers or tools kits to address some MS4 issues such as grass mulching, storm water concerns and protecting streams. Discussion occurred regarding the utilization of Public Service Announcements (PSA). Mrs. El Chaar indicated she could accommodate presenting PSA’s on the radio station WDIY. Mr. Agonis indicated for the group to google “volcano mulching” which is a disaster for trees.

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.

Friends of Allentown Parks in conjunction with Faith Church and Salisbury Township EAC are proposing another **clean up at Walking Purchase Park** in April 24, 2016. Last year the event utilized volunteers (approximately 200 individuals from Faith Church). However we will need

to plan for more dumpsters. Prior to the event the Township Staff will walk the site to get a perspective of the amount of debris that has been illegally dumped at the park. The EAC will consider cleaning up the area along Riverside Drive and Constitution Drive. Ms. Sopka indicated the Lehigh Valley canoe and kayak club often participated in evaluating the amount of debris that is often deposited Riverside of the park.

Cameras in Walking Purchase Park have been installed. Ms. Sopka indicated she spoke with Chief Stiles regarding the cameras, the proposed speed bump and possible utilization of Keep PA Beautiful. The EAC discussed how the cameras should be hidden. Mr. Nicolo suggested that the cameras should not be hidden and made a few suggestions on how to offset the costs. Additional discussion ensued. Mrs. El Chaar had discussions with the Mayor of Allentown regarding the meetings that used to be conducted for Walking Purchase Park that was often represented by Randy Soriano, Lehigh County Parks Department and Allentown Parks Department.

### **Announcements**

The Berks County Conservation District is now taking orders for the **2016 Tree Seedling Sale** on April 22, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Berks County agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533. Brochures, order forms are available for pick up. There is an assortment to choose from including new items and the favorites from last year.

### **Public Comments**

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