

I. OPENING

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Tuesday, January 10, 2006, at 7:00 P.M., at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Tom Maxfield, Chairman, presiding.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Tom Maxfield - Chairman, Thomas Conlon, Ted Beardsley, Allan Johnson, Hazem Hijazi, Sandra Yerger; Ted Beardsley, Michaelann Berger, Laura Ray. Absent - Rett Oren, Dennis Aranyos and Glenn Clouser and EAC Jr. Member Jeff Perreira

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. REORGANIZATION

**Chairman:** Mr. Maxfield opened the nominations. Mr. Beardsley nominated Tom Maxfield for Chairman. Mr. Maxfield asked if there were any other nominations? No one raised their hand. Mr. Maxfield closed the nominations.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Beardsley moved to nominate Tom Maxfield as Chairman.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** All in Favor  
None Opposed

**Vice Chairman:** Mr. Maxfield opened the nominations. Mr. Hijazi nominated Sandra Yerger. Mr. Maxfield asked if there were any other nominations? No one raised their hand. Mr. Maxfield closed the nominations.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to nominate Sandra Yerger as Vice Chairman.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley  
**ROLL CALL:** All in Favor  
None Opposed

**Secretary:** Mr. Maxfield opened the nominations. Mr. Hijazi nominated Laura Ray. Mr. Maxfield asked if there were any other nominations? No one raised their hand. Mr. Maxfield closed the nominations.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to nominate Ms. Ray for Secretary.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** All in Favor  
None Opposed

Mr. Hijazi said we should conduct the meetings and have time slots for each issue. If you want to talk about other issues, talk about it after the meeting. Let's stick to the topic.

IV. HELLERTOWN REPORT

Mr. McKenna said they had their reorganization also. There were some changes. Tony Branco stayed as Council President. Richard Fluck is still Mayor. The Depot Culvert – they are on the bidding stage of the

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project. The Army Corp of Engineers and DEP asked to stop until they get all permits. Their ultimate goal is to have the pool opened in the middle of June.

Sandra Yerger said the Saucon Valley Conservancy will form a group of Saucon Valley Watershed and there will be a joint meeting with Hellertown and the school district on February 11 at 2:00 PM. The Saucon Valley Watershed Committee is a sub committee of the Saucon Valley Conservancy.

**II. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**B. ORCHARD VIEW ESTATES LANDSCAPE PLAN**

Mr. Kevin Kester from Van Cleef Engineering Associates was present. He said the plan originally was done by Harte Engineering. Judy Stern Goldstein reviewed it and was very not happy with it at all. He has been working with Judy on this project. He prepared the plan for the basin, addressed the street trees along Leithsville Road (four specific species). For the basin, they proposed a wet bottom seed mix, and some shrubbery that would survive around the perimeter of the basin. They submitted it and spoke to Judy this afternoon and he understands he has a very clean letter, so he's basically here to answer any questions. Mrs. Yerger said this is along 412, pretty much opposite Bechtel's Orchard. It's an 8 home development. Mr. Maxfield said right now there are two homes sitting on the lot right now. Mrs. Yerger said one of their concerns was because this is in the Cook's Creek Watershed area, they want to be real careful of the storm water issues. Mr. Maxfield said a couple of years ago, the EAC went to bat with a developer with DEP, and now it is being addressed. This is the turn about. The street trees are October Glory, Maples, Sour Wood and Hawthorne. They are a smaller ornamental trees because of the overhead power lines. Mr. Maxfield asked if the wet bottom pond will be wet all year? Mr. Kester said the one area will be wet all the time. It needed a wet meadow mix to accommodate that kind of standing water. It will be cut about twice a year.

Michaleann Berger asked if there was a HOA involved with this development? Mr. Kester said he would certainly think so to maintain the basin. He honestly doesn't know the answer to that as he was brought in at the end to address the basin issues. He can find out the answer though. Her concern was if they were going to be putting pesticides down. What happens when it reaches into the water? Mr. Kester said if people have some foundation landscaping around their homes, the chance of it getting all the way to the basin is going to be pretty slim.

Michaleann Berger asked the sizes of the lots. Mr. Kester said they are all very large lots. They are probably one or two acres. He's not sure, as he wasn't involved. Mr. Maxfield said they are probably at least two acres.

Mr. Maxfield asked if he was involved with the lot landscaping. Mr. Kester said he's not contracted to do anything like that. Mr. Maxfield said one of the things you might want to recommend is that properties be deed restricted or the HOA makes sure the landscaping plan is tied together in some way so we can maintain the native characteristics here.

Mr. Maxfield said what he has so far if they would support his landscape plan and ask that a deed restriction or HOA address the consistency of the individual lot landscaping plans and that they be native grown.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for recommendation as stated above by Mr. Maxfield.  
**SECOND BY:** Ms. Laura Ray  
**ROLL CALL:** All In Favor  
None Opposed

**Dennis Araynos arrived. The time was 7:27 PM.**

**EAC members watched the video “After the Storm”. The time was 7:27 PM.  
The video was given to Mr. Maxfield by Chris Garges. The meeting reconvened.  
The time was 7:50 PM.**

**C. GREEN VALLEY COALITION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Mr. Maxfield said he wasn't quite sure that we were even members of this. He said it's \$50 and it can't hurt. Mrs. Yerger said there's a form and everyone should send in their preferences as far as a group in reference to the workshops. We'd be a non profit group. Mrs. Yerger said they went to a workshop they sponsored over at Comfort Inn. It was like any other workshop. Mr. Maxfield said they were pushing hard for bike paths. Mr. Johnson said he sees they ask if you are interested in Energy for Change, Lehigh Valley Land Use and our Future Energy Needs. Mr. Johnson is interested in the Energy for Change topic. Mrs. Yerger said they are in favor of having recreational space.

**D. EAC SUB-COMMITTEE FOR ORDINANCE REVIEW**

Mr. Maxfield said this is something specific and Sandy and Tom are going to ask that we continue doing this. Terry Clemons who works down at Buck's County, is the Solicitor of the Council for the EAC. They have met with him once already with our Planner and talked about direction, where we'd like to go. He suggested to doing our storm water ordinances, and a couple of other areas, mostly land use related things. What they'd like to do, is take one more member, without reaching a quorum and get the EAC's blessing to go on with these talks with Terry Clemons and get some ideas and go forward and take this to Council for consideration and adoption. Mr. Johnson said he's interested in going to the meeting, and so would Mr. Hijazi. Mr. Maxfield said we can take turns as sometimes him or Sandy can't make it. These meetings take place mid-afternoon. They talked to Terry at a PSATS conference, then came to Council a month or two ago and made a presentation. Then they got the okay from Council and now they want to move on with it. Mr. Hijazi asked why Mr. Clemons couldn't come to one of our meetings. Mrs. Yerger said he's very busy. Mr. Hijazi said we hired him, so he has to make the time to come when we need him. Mrs. Yerger said he also has prior commitments for Tuesday nights. He's in demand. Mr. Maxfield said he was in a bicycle accident and broke a couple of vertebrae and he's back now, and we're lucky to have him. Mr. Clemons would review our ordinances to make us sharper on different ordinances. At the meetings, he would tell us what he's been doing and we'd give him direction on what things to work on. He's already reviewed our open space plan, the general ordinance, and the water run off issues. At those meetings, any recommendations have to come back to the EAC.

**E. GOALS AND PROJECTS FOR 2006**

Mr. Maxfield said Council wants a five year plan as they want to know what these committees are doing. Council will want an update every year. Mrs. Yerger is looking for suggestions and would like to have them by next month. One of the opportunities for us is to maybe start looking to do some cooperative effort with the Saucon Creek Watershed Association and look into this project whether it's clean up, whether it's water quality testing or whatever. Mr. Maxfield said shouldn't we have an EAC member sitting in on that? Mrs. Yerger said probably we should. Mr. Maxfield

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asked for any volunteers to go to the meeting? It's on February 11 and it's open to everyone. Laura Ray offered to go and report about the meeting.

Mrs. Yerger said we could have a native plant sale in spring again. If so, she needs to know that so she can set it up. She said May 6<sup>th</sup> they could do the plant sale, it's right before Mother's Day. They will put an ad in the paper and in the newsletter.

Ms. Laura Ray said we should look at the old list and go over it.

Michaleann Berger said we could do Christmas Tree Recycling. Mr. Maxfield said we have a chipper here, and that's a great idea.

Mrs. Yerger said we should pursue the computer recycling again. Mr. Beardsley said pick a date and let's do it again. He wants a bigger turnout next time. EAC will hold April 8 or 15 open and see what the recycling place thinks. Laura Ray said April 1<sup>st</sup> is cleanup of Route 412 and 212 corridors.

Mrs. Yerger said the new homeowners packets is a good idea embracing them to plant native plants. It could be called the "New Resident Resource Packet".

Mrs. Yerger said another goal is to get in touch with the local farmers and (**tape inaudible – fill in**).

Mr. Maxfield said put something together for the riparian care for existing homeowners.

Mr. Maxfield said another goal is to do an environmental calendar. Pertaining to the lawn chemicals, that would be a good article to put in the newsletter. Michaleann Berger said they should let the residents know of alternatives. Mr. Hijazi said it's a good point to educate people about the alternatives. Tom Maxfield will research it and do an article on it.

Mr. Araynos said a lot of pollutants aren't from homeowners, but the majority is from golf course which are adjacent to streams. Mr. Maxfield said he recently read that it was the homeowners and not the golf courses. Golf courses are now going organic.

Mr. Maxfield said we should get the EAC website into existence. Laura Ray said the goal will be for two months. She'll need articles, pictures or any other information to put on it. She can make links to good articles and she can put the minutes on the website. Lawn chemicals and alternatives can also be put on it. Mr. Johnson said that will increase the citizen's awareness.

Mr. Hijazi said that's a good idea to have a packet for the new homeowners and have information about energy conservation.

Mr. Maxfield said they need to do a clean up on Ringhoffer's Road. He has a hard time going down that road now because of all the trash.

**F. REFERENDUM FOR OPEN SPACE FUNDING**

Mrs. Yerger said some of the local municipalities started proceeding or have successfully enacted very small EIT percentage of taxes, like .025% to generate cash to preserve open space. She would like to see Lower Saucon do this and look at a plan and properties involved. She would like to see and consider moving forward and put together a referendum. We would make a recommendation and then it would be up to Council. Also, what might happen, what might fall on the EIT would be some of the particulars on how you want to see the EIT used as far as criteria. Mr. Maxfield said

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we have to accomplish this capital through a referendum. Mrs. Yerger said she has access to getting literature. We need to get educated on it. She will check with Attorney Treadwell. Mrs. Yerger said at .25 increase in EIT tax, it would generate about \$3/4 million annually. Mr. Hijazi said he is opposed to any increase in taxes, but he likes the idea of a referendum. Let the people evaluate it – is \$100 a year to save space important to them or not? Mrs. Yerger will come back to the EAC.

**II. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**A. CHURCH HILL ESTATES**

Mr. Maxfield said they were at the Planning Commission last night and nothing has changed. It is the same recommendations as before.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Beardsley moved to go with the same recommendation as before.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** All in Favor: Yes  
Opposed: None

**III. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**A. SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP SOUCEWATER PROTECTION PLAN –  
RECOMMENDAITON TO COUNCIL**

Mr. Maxfield said you should have gotten a letter from the Township they sent that we are in support of the plan. What's been requested is we do an official support for it which would be a resolution by Council upon a recommendation by the EAC that we support this plan.

**MOTION BY:** Ms. Laura Ray moved to fully support the Springfield Township Sourcewater Protection Plan.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** All in Favor: Yes  
Opposed: None

**B. ACT 167 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN – REVIEW AND COMMENT**

Mr. Maxfield said we went over this in Planning last night. Mr. Hijazi said the plan is required by the EPA and it was passed on to DEP. The LVPC is to implement their position with NPDES. LVPC is preparing this plan. They already revised it once and they are sending it for comments to see how it could be incorporated into the Township's local plans and ordinances. Our role here is to see and evaluate if our township requirements meet what the LVPC has adhered. One of the things discussed yesterday was that our requirements could be more stringent but they cannot be less. If anyone has comments and has read it, they could review them and add them to our existing requirements. Mrs. Yerger said after going through it, she would like to see that we have some kind of mini workshop once this gets approved and have the EAC, PC, ZHB, and Council look at this. Break it down in English. Mr. Maxfield said they don't mention the east branches of the Cooks Creek and considering the fact that it's almost a separate stream as it links up to the Saucon Creek in the last leg, they need to mention it. They need to address the overlap of aquifer use in Cook's Creek, there are shared aquifers there. Mrs. Yerger said page 33, they talk about significant environmental resources, and they list a bunch. She thought woodlands and brown pools should be included in there separately.

Mr. Maxfield said last night after the meeting he was talking to our planner, Judy. At one point, we proposed that in this plan there be 100 foot setbacks instead of the normal 75 foot setbacks. She

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said they were ready to recommend 100 foot setbacks for all riparian corridors. You couldn't do any development then.

Mr. Johnson said it would be a good idea to look at it and bring back comments next month.

**Michaleann Berger left. The time was 8:59 PM.**

**C. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 6, 2005 MINUTES**

Mr. Johnson said on page 2 at the top, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, the word "carbon dioxide" should be "carbon monoxide".

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved for approval of December 6, 2005 minutes, with corrections.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Aranyos  
**ROLL CALL:** All in Favor: Yes  
Opposed: None

**V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Johnson would like to see better guidelines on forestry and forest management. They should try to enlighten our timber harvesting plan and work on the guidelines within the next five years. Is your opinion to just leave the forests go and let them grow or do you feel we should have a realistic more understandable plan for people that do own woodlands, possibly harvesting some of the wood that's in there? Right now you can only cut three trees a year without coming in with a big plan. Mr. Maxfield said he thinks it takes common sense. A perfect example is out on Ringhoffer Road. Mr. Johnson said he knows there is a lot of bad timber harvesting going on, but there's also a lot of sense in that article that was given out. You just can't leave them grow. There's a lot of people that would like to get some value out of their timber and we should have some kind of realistic guidelines to allow those people do that. Let's put it in our goals for the next five years. Mr. Maxfield said with the highlands, it is a sensitive issue. Mr. Johnson said right now it's so restrictive we can't do anything. We've got to make it less restrictive so we can do something.

Laura Ray asked if we were interested in making an application for the "2006 EAC Achievement Awards"? She thought of the native plant garden. This one though is still an ongoing project. She just wondered if EAC was interested in it.

Mr. Johnson said the riparian corridor plan we looked at last month, Saucon Meadows, there's a little intermittent stream that runs under the road, so you'd want to prevent anything from 100 feet from that stream? Mr. Maxfield said as far as building goes unless you had an existing structure.

Mrs. Yerger said there's a Keystone Cold Water Conference if anyone is interested. It's February 24 or 25. Let Sandy know and she'll get you information about it. It's at State College and it's only \$30.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:15 PM.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson  
**ROLL CALL:** All in Favor: Yes  
Opposed: None