

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:18 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

**ROLL CALL: Members:** Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Laura Ray, Allan Johnson, Hazem Hijazi; Absent: Tom Maxfield, Ted Beardsley & Dru Germanoski **Associate Members:** Thomas Carocci Michael Boyle and David Jauregui. Absent: Glenn Kaye & Sarah Stanlick. **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos **Jr. Council Member:** Absent - Kyle Bambu

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. NEW BUSINESS (7:00 p.m.)**

**A. KEN ZINIS, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

**COORDINATOR** (Ken went first before Reorganization as there was not a quorum until 7:18 p.m. due to the weather) Mr. Zinis was present. He went over all the highlights of each recycling event held in 2015. He said it was great attendance and had many volunteers helping. He spoke about some recycling events the County is holding for 2016 as well as the E-cycling event at Steel Stacks and the Household Hazardous Waste Event at Northampton Community College on May 21 and October 8, 2016. Brian Cope, Open Space Coordinator wanted him to let the EAC know that the grant period will be in March for both open space and parks grants. A mailing will go out shortly.

**B. REORGANIZATION**

**1. NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to nominate of Mrs. Yerger as Chairman

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson

Mrs. Yerger asked if there were any other nominations. No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley & Mr. Germanoski)

**2. NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to nominate Mr. Maxfield as Vice-Chairman

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson

Mrs. Yerger asked if there were any other nominations. No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley & Mr. Germanoski)

**3. NOMINATION OF SECRETARY**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to nominate Ms. Ray as Secretary

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

Mrs. Yerger asked if there were any other nominations. No one raised their hand.

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley & Mr. Germanoski)

**4. DESIGNATION OF EAC MEETING – TIME, DATE & PLACE**

**MOTION BY:** Ms. Ray moved for the EAC meetings to be held at Town Hall on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Hijazi

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley & Mr. Germanoski)

**C. GOALS AND PROJECTS FOR 2016**

Mrs. Yerger said we have to go over the goals for 2016. The following goals were approved for 2016:

- Promotion of Native Plant Garden
- Promotion of the Latex-Based Paint Event
- Native Plant Sale – Will coordinate with Edge of the Woods
- Educational programs with the Saucon Creek Watershed Association including the Watershed Steward Program

- Work with Township staff to locate additional small streams and tributaries and where they would be located – Have Dru Germanoski bring on a grad student to help with this.
- Promote more frequent County recycling of hazardous waste collection
- Adopt-a-Road program in the spring and fall
- Lighting Ordinance (If it's in place, we can amend next month)
- Have the EAC investigate the issue of radon in the drinking water in LST and in homes, and have homes in LST tested (Alan Johnson had radon in his water at his home. There are two ways to remediate the radon; one is a charcoal filter which collects the radiation, and the best way is aeration where you blow air through the water and the air strips out the radon. He will bring information in for the EAC to read. Mr. Hijazi said this is a valid goal and we should promote it throughout the Township.)
- Five Year Goal – establish environmental education programs at Township Parks and/or school district

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Johnson moved to accept and approve the goals and projects for 2016.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Hijazi

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley and Mr. Germanoski)

**D. DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF MAINTENANCE AND STEWARDSHIP FOR OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES – MEMO FROM BOUCHER & JAMES**

Mrs. Yerger said Boucher & James was asked by Township Council to define maintenance to stewardship for our parks and open space. Mr. Hijazi said what is required of us? Mrs. Yerger said whether we endorse it and have Township Council accept it for maintenance for open space. This is defining it. There were questions brought up about using open space funding for maintenance of parks and open space areas. Our Planners were supposed to come up with a reasonable definition of maintenance.

Mr. Hijazi said whether we agree or don't agree with this, he's not sure why we are looking at this. Mrs. Yerger said we were asked to look at it. Mr. Johnson said it looks like these are all things we can do to maintain open space. Mr. Hijazi said wildlife management, does the Township do this? Mr. Johnson said these are things our consultants came up with for what we could do. Ms. Ray said something came up where they wanted to use open space funds for a parking lot, and that's not really what the referendum said. It was not part of the original ballot question.

Mr. Hijazi said meadows management, so if the Township has to mow some meadows, that's going to be coming out of the open space project? Ms. Ray said these are things that shouldn't come out of the open space funds. Mr. Carocci said if this does go back on the ballot in the future, with the word maintenance, they would look at the wording in the memo and use 25% of the open space money for maintenance.

Mr. Jauregui said he's assuming they put this together when the referendum comes around, they will want to put this option of using funds for maintenance and what's only in this memo should be considered maintenance. If the residents don't vote for it, this is a wasted document. Mrs. Yerger said we've been tasked to do is see if this is a reasonable definition of what maintenance should be defined as.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Johnson moved that the EAC recommends to Council that we accept the definition of maintenance items for open space proposed by Boucher & James as maintenance activities that should be included in maintenance of open space properties.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. Ray

**ROLL CALL:** 3-1 (No – Mr. Hijazi; Absent – Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley and Mr. Germanoski)

**III. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**A. PROPERTY UPDATES**

Mrs. Yerger said David Seifert sent in an application for the open space program. He has about 30 acres to be preserved and it abuts up to the Seifert-Ray property that was preserved in 2005, which

would bring it up to about 60 acres. The Open Space Sub-Committee should go out and see this property to do an evaluation. After you contact the property owner and evaluate it, please bring it back to the EAC. Springfield will also do an evaluation of the property as ten acres are located there.

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**A. BLAIR – 1988 FRIEBLEY AVENUE SITE PLAN #SP 04-15 – 1988 FRIEBLEY AVENUE**

Mrs. Yerger said this is a plan for a micro-brewery. It's going to be a change of use in an existing building. The EAC had no comments as there were no environmental issues.

**B. IESI BETHLEHEM LANDFILL – LAND DEVELOPMENT #LD01-15 – 2335 APPLEBUTTER ROAD – SUBMISSION 11/25/15 & RESUBMISSIO 01/04/16**

Mrs. Yerger said she talked to our Zoning Officer today as we got no comments from our Consultants. Chris had said they met today with IESI so we don't know what has been determined at this point. She asked Chris if there was time for the EAC to evaluate this and Chris said yes, we could table it and put it on the February agenda. We can then put forth our recommendations to Council. Chris will provide information and comments to the EAC for the next meeting.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to table this agenda item to the February agenda and at that time they will be provided with more information from Chris Garges, our Zoning Officer.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley and Mr. Germanoski)

**C. CASILIO TIMBER HARVEST SITE PLAN #SP 05-15 – 2111 LEITHSVILLE ROAD**

Mrs. Yerger said there is a plan. She spoke to Chris Garges today and this hasn't been reviewed by our consultants. Chris assured her the EAC could look at it in February. It gives you the number of acres and trees, but no diameter, so we don't know what timber is coming out of it. The map is useless and it's all blurry. Mr. Johnson asked if anyone wanted to walk through it and look at the marked trees.

Mr. Boos said for himself to give an accurate evaluation without actually seeing the site, he made a list of things that he would like to see so he can envision it in his mind. One of the things is the soils and the site indexes for timber and what are the site index species that are being used for that evaluation? What is the original stands and residuals stands after the harvest? What are the species volumes, size, and distributions of the original stands and whether the residual size distributions of those residuals stand? What is the original quality of the stands and what will be the residual quality of the stands? There's no listing of what the slopes delineate, what kind of water management practices are entailed?

Mr. Johnson said he was looking at the geographic map and doesn't see them marked. Mrs. Yerger said the map is barely legible. Mrs. Johnson said he wasn't here when you went over the logging on Crestline and one of the reasons doing it was the problem with the ash bore beetle. Is that a legitimate reason for cutting down the trees? Mr. Boos said it most certainly is, particularly if you have large classes available because as this continues to decimate more forests, the price of the timber is going to drop when so much product comes on the market at one time. It's a good idea to be proactive right now. Mr. Johnson said this doesn't mean they should cut down everything else. Is that an excuse to go in there and do a harvest? Mr. Boos said you're going to have a harvest for the ash and the way it was worded in the application as they are looking to improve the quality of the stands. You also want to improve your stand quality by removing other non-quality species that are in your other stands. It's better to have one entry or minimize the entries into a forest property as much as possible so you have less residual damage on trees left behind.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Yerger moved to table this agenda item to the February agenda and at that time they will be provided with more information from Chris Garges, our Zoning Officer and will be given the reviews from our consultants.

**Environmental Advisory Council  
January 12, 2016**

**SECOND BY:** Ms. Ray

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Yerger amended her motion and moved to table this agenda item to the February agenda and at that time they will be provided with more information from Chris Garges, our Zoning Officer and will be given the reviews from our consultants. The EAC would also like to receive a copy of our timber zoning ordinance from our Zoning Officer for the next EAC meeting.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. Ray amended her second

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley and Mr. Germanoski)

**D. BEN FRANKLIN TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS WAIVER 06-15 – 116 RESEARCH DRIVE**

Mrs. Yerger said they are building on a site that's paved and they are not changing much more than putting a four story buildings there where there are sheds now. The impervious coverage is very minimal. The EAC had no comments as there were no environmental issues.

**E. DU MINOR SUBDIVISION – 1953 LEITHSVILLE ROAD MINOR #MN 02-15**

Mrs. Yerger said they are making two lots out of it and it would be a minor subdivision. Ms. Donna Louder was present and said they have major problems in the Leithsville area with the septic systems. Mrs. Yerger said it's only two lots and it's 13 acres. They are not proposing a house at this time. The EAC had no comments as there were no environmental issues.

**V. UPDATES/REPORTS**

**A. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Boos said the Farmer's Market is planning to be back at the Water Street Park this year. They will start the first Sunday in May and they will be organizing their vendors meeting in mid-February. The Water Street Park is available for use now.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2015 MINUTES**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved for approval of the November 10, 2015 minutes.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley and Mr. Germanoski)

**VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - None**

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 8:25 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. Ray

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Absent: Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Beardsley and Mr. Germanoski)

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Sandra Yerger, Chair