

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 7:10 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Members: Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Tom Maxfield, Vice Chairman; Laura Ray, Allan Johnson; Absent: Hazem Hijazi, Ted Beardsley & Dru Germanoski **Associate Members:** Glenn Kaye & Michael Boyle; Absent: Sarah Stanlick; **Hellertown Liaison:** Absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. REORGANIZATION

1. NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN

MOTION BY: Mr. Johnson moved for the nomination of Sandy Yerger as Chairman
SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield
ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

2. NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

MOTION BY: Mr. Johnson moved for the nomination of as Tom Maxfield as Vice-Chairman
SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger
ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

3. NOMINATION OF SECRETARY

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for the nomination of Laura Ray as Secretary
SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson
ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

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

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for the EAC meetings to be held at Townhall on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 pm.
SECOND BY: Ms. Ray
ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

B. REVIEW OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT FOR ELYSIUM ACQUISITIONS, LLC – 2671 APPLEBUTTER ROAD

Mrs. Yerger said there is a review of a conservation easement for Elysium Acquisitions. This was a small piece of property that the developer is donating it to the Township. There is no money involved with the transaction. This is pretty much a standard easement. They really couldn't do anything with the property. This is a good thing as it's a sample of an easement. We tailor each easement specifically to what features are on a property, but generally, this is what an easement is.

Mr. Maxfield asked who paid for the actual work-up of the legal document? Was that us or them? He asked Ms. Palik to find out for him. Mr. Johnson said is the result of our review going to be forwarding this to our lawyer for his review? Mrs. Yerger said she wasn't 100% sure of who drew this up. She doesn't know if it was Linc.

Mr. Johnson said he was thinking it was Terry Clemons. Mrs. Yerger said she doesn't know if that has to be done if it was drawn up by Linc. She doesn't know that for sure. You can make that recommendation in light if Linc did not see it.

Mr. Johnson said he has a lot of things underlined, but if it was gone over by our lawyer already, it's obviously okay. This is the first time he ever saw one that he got to read and it's clearly written and amazing all the things it covers.

Mrs. Yerger said the idea of the easement is so it runs in perpetuity with the land, not just the landowner. They have to be pretty comprehensive. Mr. Johnson said a lot of the references are in here are to the current landowner by using the word Grantor. He was wondering if the property does change hands, is the new owner responsible for all of this? Mrs. Yerger said yes, it runs with the land. It's placed on the land.

Mr. Johnson said when it comes to invasives, are we able to remove them? He thinks after he read through the whole thing, it does mention that and he understood it to mean we can go in there and cut out invasives if we want to. Mrs. Yerger said you need permission from the landowner, but if the Township is going to be the holder, we can.

Mr. Johnson said is Heritage going to be the third party, or is it automatic? Mrs. Yerger said it's not automatic, and she doesn't have an answer to that one. Mr. Johnson said since we are getting this for free, are we paying for most of the work that has to be done? Don't we have to do another survey or has his survey confirmed? Mrs. Yerger said you can ask those questions to the Township. Ms. Ray said maybe that's only if you are paying for it. He's saying doing a survey again, do you need a survey? Mrs. Yerger said the Township will just own the easement, the development rights, not the property. Mr. Maxfield said it's not that big of a chunk. Mr. Johnson said it's 1.4 acres. Mr. Boyle mentioned toxic waste. Mr. Johnson said it says in here it's the owner's responsibility to let us know if there's any toxic waste in there. Mr. Boyle said when you buy a house, they tell you there aren't any water leaks, then there are. Mr. Johnson said there's a road called Helms Road and it was a jungle. He didn't even want to try and walk in there. Maybe it's a good idea to take a walk in there now. We really don't know where the boundaries are. It would be nice to have the owner show us. Mr. Maxfield said there may be stakes. Mrs. Yerger said it's a current survey if Art Swallow did the survey. Mr. Boyle said if Mr. Johnson wanted to take a walk one day, he'd go along with him. Mrs. Yerger said they could do that and report back to the EAC next month.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved that the EAC recommends to Council approval of the deed of conservation for 2671 Applebutter Road with the conditions that our Attorney Treadwell look at the language if it has not already occurred and that Council investigates a third party for holding the easement.

SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

C. GOALS AND PROJECTS FOR 2014

- Compost Workshop – The EAC decided to eliminate this one.
- Promotion of Native Plant Garden – The EAC said they would still pursue this and have it mulched, weeded and continue the maintenance.
- Promotion of Electronics Recycling – The EAC will do this and pick a date for the Spring.

- Native Plant Sale – Mrs. Yerger said we have been doing this the last couple of years with the Saucon Creek Watershed Association and we do a sale one day at the Farmer’s Market. We do this in May or June. She will come back in February and post some tentative dates. The proceeds we donate to the Saucon Creek Watershed Association. They can put this on the website and in the Township newsletter. Ms. Ray and Mrs. Yerger said they never receive the newsletters in the mail.
- Educational programs with the Saucon Creek Watershed Association – Mrs. Yerger said they do a rain barrel workshop and they are pretty well attended. If anyone has any other ideas, let her know. Mr. Maxfield said we could do programs at the educational center. It would be a perfect place. Mrs. Yerger said we did a couple of workshops here. Mr. Johnson said as we learn more about our ground and stream water, while the next two projects are being worked on, maybe someday we can put together a brochure and send it out to people who have wells and don’t know anything about them. Mrs. Yerger said we do have a brochure on Riparian Corridor buffers and using native plants to plant them and prevent stream erosion and control sediment build-up. Maybe we need to promote this. They did a nice program down at Neighbors and they put in about 200 native trees as it was an area that the Saucon was eroding. They did a great job. Maybe we’ll do a field trip when the weather breaks. Mrs. Yerger said while we’re on education, EAC’s across the state were established by a group known as PEC or the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. PEC has relinquished its governance of Councils of the EAC’s through the state and have transferred the governance and establishments and running of the EAC’s to PALTA, Pennsylvania Association for Land Trusts. She’s not sure why they took that avenue, but they are. There’s a PALTA conference in Reading if anyone wants to go. It’s \$35.00 to go. They have all kinds of educational seminars. Go onto the PALTA website and look for the EAC conference. It is going to be the first weekend in May, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. If you are interested in attending as an EAC member. The transportation would be on your own, but the Township would pick up the registration fee. They will have to get permission from Council. It might be help you out. Ms. Ray said the PEC conferences were always good. Mrs. Yerger will be there on Saturday as she’s speaking. Registration usually includes your food. It’s very worthwhile. There are a lot of vendors there where you can get a lot of information. There will be all kinds of people there. Mr. Johnson said is this an organization that Wildlands and Heritage belong to? Mrs. Yerger said yes, they belong to them. A land trust is the entity. Heritage is a land trust as well as Wildlands. Go to the sites and they will talk about the workshops.
- Work with Township staff to compile and assess existing Township hydrology information relative to groundwater use and protection – The EAC is already doing this and will be continued.
- Work with Township staff to map existing wells and investigate well protection methods and landowner educational opportunities – The EAC is already doing this and will be continued. Mr. Johnson said the student from Lafayette will shed a lot of light on this.
- Promote more frequent county recycling hazardous waste recycling collection with the County. Mrs. Yerger asked if Ms. Palik could email Mr. Dittmar and get the dates and the brochure. Mrs. Yerger said when Diane gets the dates, Ms. Ray could put them on the EAC website. Mr. Maxfield said we could put things on the Township website and give the link to the EAC website so they can find out about different programs. Mrs. Yerger said it was pointed out to her by one of the residents that the maps we have on our Township website on the Open Space focus area do not open. If you could have someone look at this, she would appreciate it.
- Adopt-a-Road Program – The EAC will continue to do this twice a year. They will pick a date in February.
- Lighting Ordinance – Mr. Maxfield said our Planners are working on this and it will come before Council. They do have information for us to look at. We can ask them to begin to put it in motion and look at it. It’s about the whole kind of dark skies idea where we are trying to get lights down, not reflecting up. It’s tough with Stabler and the high school

where the lights take over the sky. We are trying to bring that awareness to the community. We talked about security lights and lights blaring in your eyes driving down the road. We have a few lighting ordinances now. This will spell out what glare is and the types of lights appropriate in the Township.

Mrs. Yerger said educational programs, do we have anything in mind or just want to start talking about doing a joint program? Mr. Johnson said let's talk to them. Mrs. Yerger will talk with them and come back with some options.

Mrs. Yerger said Ms. Palik will type up the goals and we'll vote on them next month.

III. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE

A. PROPERTY UPDATES

1. TOWNSEND – POLK VALLEY ROAD & SAVITSKE – RESERVOIR ROAD UPDATE

No action was taken. Mrs. Yerger said she didn't have anything on this property.

2. Mr. Johnson said the Township received a request for additional information from Kim Panko, a landowner on Wassergass Road. He doesn't know if the Township received any information back. Mrs. Yerger said she hasn't heard anything. Mr. Johnson said if Mr. Panko is interested and we get a chance to talk to him about conservation easement, the northern end of this property is surrounded by our property on the Dravec property. If we could get some kind of agreement, that would be fantastic, as we'd have the whole side of the mountain. Mr. Johnson is hoping Mr. Panko expresses continual interest in it. He's waiting for his response. He brought a map tonight and showed the EAC where the land was and where it fits into what he's talking about. One of his borders is next to Richard Marson, which is another property we may get a conservation on. It would connect to his property also. Part of his property is in the Natural Areas Inventory and we can sometimes get money when we preserve property in those areas. Mrs. Yerger said in January 29th, she is going to a Northampton County workshop on funding for land acquisition. They will be looking for opportunities there. The DCNR rounds have also opened up and are available through April and need to keep this in mind.

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. UPDATE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG COLLECTION PROGRAM

Mrs. Yerger said this has been going on awhile. Many of the surrounding municipalities have a prescription drug drop box. Once you drop it in, you can't get the drugs back. She had asked our staff to look into this. They in turn referred it to the Police Department. The memo is the upshot of the conversation with Officer Leidy who accepted this project. There are concerns. We have a one-day a year drug drop-off right now. She had hoped that by having the drop box, people could do it on a more than one day a year. They have it on a Saturday; she works on a Saturday as she's sure many other people do. She can't make it. She thought this would be a convenience for the Township residents. They have it in Springfield. There's a grant to pay for it. It doesn't cost us anything. There seems to be some concerns.

Mr. Johnson said he thinks the drop box is a good idea because you can anonymously drop off your extra prescriptions without anybody knowing you did it and he thinks that's an important part of it. Who wants the Police Department who collects information on everything to know what drugs you

are taking at home, the health problems you are having, etc., etc. If you are going to drop off your extra prescription drugs, you'd want to do it in a certain way. Mr. Boyle said he agrees one hundred percent. On top of it, if people are just flushing them or putting them in the trash, that's what they are going to do. Mrs. Yerger said that's what they are going to do. They are not going to hold them for a whole year. Mr. Boyle said he'd think the risk of some drug addict coming in and trying to break into this, then they can have it. Mrs. Yerger said the ones she gets rid of are extra worming pills for her dog. If they really want them, they can have them.

Mr. Kaye said the majority of the drugs end up in the box like antibiotics that are expired. Mr. Boyle said just what you want to keep out of the water. Mrs. Yerger said the main point is to not flush them down the toilet. If people want to get rid of them, they are going to get rid of them. For them to hold on to them for a year, they are going to get rid of them in some other way.

Mr. Johnson said the Police are saying, why don't you just come in to our office and give them to us, hand them to us. Mr. Boyle said are they taking inventory? Mr. Johnson said no that was their answer if you read the last paragraph, they want you to bring them into their office.

Mr. Kaye said they were addressing the issues of, well if you have it in an unmonitored place that's easily accessed by the public, then you could suffer vandalism or theft, so they said people could just come into the PD and leave their drugs there instead of having a drop-off box. That was their answer. That's not a good option.

Mr. Johnson said there's no anonymity here. Mr. Maxfield said when you think about how many wells and on lot sewage in this Township, people will be poisoning their own wells eventually. Some of this stuff doesn't go away; it hangs around for a long time. The memo says they can apply for a grant to get one. Mrs. Yerger said they can, that's how Springfield got one. She asked the Manager there. Mr. Maxfield said he knows they have concerns, but he thinks in the long run, these concerns are probably more concerns than anything else.

Ms. Ray said it's not like they have to be protecting Township hall which is two feet away from the Police Station, then she'd be worried about our Police Department, that's pretty scary.

Mr. Boyle said have a drum inside the police station and have it anonymous. Mrs. Yerger said again, if you look at the box, it's a one-way drop. You are going to have to go to some effort to get them out of these boxes.

Mr. Johnson said they are saying the Police Department lobby is too small that they don't have the room to come in there, but how big is the box going to go. Mr. Boyle said how many people are going to come in at one time. Mrs. Yerger showed the EAC how big the box would be. Mr. Johnson said why is the box so big? Mrs. Yerger said it's because they have to only empty it so often and it's got all the ways you can't get it back out again. It goes down like a chute. You can't reach back in and retrieve the drugs. Mr. Johnson said the lobby is small. Mrs. Yerger said she has to tell you, the Township she's seen it used in, it's in the Town Hall, right in front of the office. Ms. Ray said probably more people come in here anyway to do whatever they do coming in here than they would be going to the Police Department for.

Mr. Kaye said what kind of program could you have to educate people the importance of using the drop box. 99.9% of the people have leftover drugs and they throw them in the trash with no knowledge there's not anything wrong with that. Mr. Maxfield said that could be one of the programs we could look into with the Saucon Creek Watershed.

Mrs. Yerger said not only that, but it could be to your point, in a newsletter. They let them know all the other stuff that's going on in the Township and if we have to do it more than once, then we do it more than once "don't forget, here's the box, don't forget, here's the box" kind of thing. We

can do a little flyer thing when we are doing our Native Plant sale, hand them out at the Farmer's Market. They've got hundreds of people who come there in the spring. It's packed now and doing amazing anymore. There's multiple ways we could spread the word.

Mrs. Yerger said what she is hearing is we are still in favor of having the Police do this. Mr. Kaye said he didn't see much of a difference having the box in Town Hall or the Police Department. Mrs. Yerger said she doesn't really care where it is. Mr. Boyle said restricted access. Mr. Kaye said it's definitely a good idea to have a box.

Mrs. Yerger said we want to recommend that we would still like to have a drop box for prescription drugs for our residents convenience and if they prefer the Police Station s opposed to Town Hall, we don't care. Ms. Ray said she prefers Town Hall, it makes more sense. Mrs. Yerger said one of the things with Town Hall, with meetings like this, Council meetings, it's open some evenings. It might be slightly more convenient here.

Mr. Boyle said if someone is digging through recycling things, they are going to do something stupid somewhere else. He thinks the risk is so low. Mrs. Yerger said what she has seen in other Township's, the boxes are there. You see them. She doesn't know that they've ever had any problems.

Mr. Maxfield said what if you had the drop-off orifice in a public space, but the storage unit behind a wall locked up? Mrs. Yerger said the reason to her knowledge is they are so big and so convoluted that you can't retrieve the drugs. If they are going to go to the trouble of breaking apart that box, you are going to have to drill holes in walls and things like that. They would pull the box away and have access. How much vandalism are we anticipating here.

Mr. Maxfield said one of the arguments if we propose it to be in Town Hall is that it's much more accessible for anyone who wants to break into it than it would be in front of the Police Station. Mrs. Yerger said she doesn't care where it is. Mr. Maxfield said he's trying to find a way to put it out of the hands of anybody who really was interested in it. Mr. Kaye said first of all, they'd have to break into Town Hall. Mr. Maxfield said if there's a night meeting and 40 people in here and 3 out there, and they want to break into it. Mrs. Yerger said there's a camera out there.

Mr. Maxfield said let's just get the box and figure it out then. Mrs. Yerger said she needs a recommendation that we proceed on getting a drop box for prescription drugs, placement will be up to the discretion of the Police force.

Mr. Maxfield said there is a Council meeting tomorrow evening.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to recommend to Council that the EAC wants to proceed on getting a drop box for prescription drugs for our residents; placement will be up to the discretion of the Police force so that they are not dropping them into their water system, or disposing them in the garbage. If they are worried about people accessing them, people can go dumpster diving and who knows what they are going to find.

SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Johnson said on page 2, line 16, the word, "There's on" should be "There's **one**". Same page, line 29, the "still grass" should be "stilt grass". Page

**Environmental Advisory Council
January 14, 2014**

MOTION BY: Mr. Johnson moved for approval of the November 12, 2013 minutes, with corrections.
SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield
ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- Mr. Johnson said he contacted Brian Cope from the Northampton County Open Space Natural Resources Department to get an update on how the things are going with the Livable Landscapes Northampton County Strategic Open Space Plan. That was back in December. Mr. Johnson tried to contact him today, but couldn't get a hold of him. They were waiting for the plan to be approved by the LVPC at their December 12th meeting. That approval was by the LVPC of their part in the study. He said that the pace of work will increase in January after they get the LVPC's approval and invitations to be a member of the Strategic Open Space Steering Committee should be sent out in January. He said some bad news was that the Northampton County Council voted to decrease the \$1 million open space and natural areas budget for 2014 by \$380,000.00 from \$1 million to \$620,000.00. The reason was to provide for new hires in the Park Department and the Coroner's office and some other expenses. Did we know that Mike Topping, a member of the Saucon Creek Watershed Association is the President of the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board. This is what he found out on December 12th.

VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT – Absent

IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mrs. Yerger said she was going to ask Mr. Boyle if he would like to consider being on the Open Space Sub-Committee which is basically reviewing the properties that come in, meeting with Allan and Ted, and figuring out a date to walk them and score them, and then come back to the EAC. She thinks he would be a good asset to that. Mr. Boyle said he would like that.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to recommend to Council that we have Michael Boyle now become a member of the Open Space Sub-Committee.

SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

- Mr. Maxfield said the new EAC handbook is in progress right now and there will be copies in the next couple of months. It's the last project that PEC did. If you don't have a copy, the original statute will be in there that established EAC's and by-laws for those who are looking to start new EAC's. It's a handy document.
- Mr. Maxfield said he was just at his wife's work today and he heard through the grapevine that the LVPC is holding a flood plain ordinance revision workshop for municipal officials which would be any of us. It's going to be at Nurture Nature Center. Becky Bradley was talking to the Nature Nurture Center. She's Easton's planner and citizen head of the LVPC. It sounds they were going to be some changes from the flood plain ordinance they had before. If anyone wants to go, let us know.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for adjournment. The time was 8:20 P.M.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

**Environmental Advisory Council
January 14, 2014**

Mrs. Yerger had to re-open the EAC meeting of Tuesday, January 14, 2014 for an Executive Session which the EAC had to discuss a real estate parcel. The meeting was opened again at 8:25 PM.

The EAC meeting reconvened at 8:50 PM.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved that the EAC recommends to Council that the Open Space Sub-Committee pursues property #2014-01. They would like to petition Council to do an appraisal and to pursue acquisitions of this property.

SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for adjournment. The time was 8:55 P.M.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Hijazi & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

Sandra Yerger, Chair