

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

ROLL CALL: Members: Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Laura Ray, Hazem Hijazi, Ted Beardsley, Dru Germanoski; Absent: Mr. Johnson. **Associate Members,** Sarah Stanlick, Thomas Carocci, Michael Boyle; **Absent:** Glenn Kaye & David Jauregui. **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos. **Staff:** Diane Palik. **Jr. Council EAC Member:** Brynn Bambu.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: The EAC met in Executive Session from 7:30 p.m. to 7:55 p.m. to discuss Property No. 2016-1, 2016-2, 2016-3, 2017-1 and 2017-2.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. REORGANIZATION

1. NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved to nominate Sandra Yerger as Chairman for 2017.

SECOND BY: Mr. Hijazi

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

2. NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

MOTION BY: Mr. Beardsley moved to nominate Hazem Hijazi as Vice Chairman for 2017.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

3. NOMINATION OF SECRETARY

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved to nominate Laura Ray as Secretary for 2017.

SECOND BY: Mr. Beardsley

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

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

MOTION BY: Mr. Beardsley moved to have the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at Town Hall, starting at 7:00 p.m.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

5. NOMINATION OF MEMBER POSITION

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to recommend to Council that Sarah Stanlick be appointed to the position of Member to take the vacant position that was held by Tom Maxfield in 2016.

SECOND BY: Mr. Germanoski

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

B. GOALS & PROJECTS FOR 2017

- 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. Mrs. Yerger asked about a Rain Barrel Workshop. Terry Boos said they are anticipating one in March or April and he will keep the EAC in the loop.
- Work with Township staff to locate additional small streams and tributaries and where they would be located – Dru Germanoski will follow up
- Promote more frequent County recycling of hazardous waste collection
- Adopt-a-Road program in the spring and fall
- Five Year Goal – establish environmental educational programs at Township Parks and/or school district

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MOTION BY: Mr. Germanoski moved to recommend to Council the goals and projects for 2017.
SECOND BY: Mr. Hijazi
ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

C. MS4 UPDATES

Mrs. Yerger said the Township and Hanover are finalizing the update of our GIS mapping of storm sewer structures. They are working on preparing training sessions for Township employees. Hanover is preparing an interim submission to DEP for our current permit and beginning the process of applying for our next permit cycle.

III. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE

A. PROPERTY UPDATES

1. DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY NO. 2016-1, 2016-2, 2016-3, 2016-4

2. DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY NO. 2017-1 and 2017-2

The EAC went into Executive Session from 7:30 p.m. to 7:55 p.m.

MOTION BY: Sandra Yerger moved to recommend to Council that the Township proceed with the acquisition easement for Property No. 2016-1, in conjunction with the funding received through the Federal Highlands grant and that we will pursue a DCNR application with a letter of retroactivity with the intent to possibly get reimbursed for the Lower Saucon Township's portion of the acquisition funding.

SECOND BY: Dru Germanoski

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved to recommend to Council that the EAC is not interested in Property No. 2016-2 as it does not meet the criteria of our program, i.e., size, location and characteristics of the property; and to send a letter to the property owner stating we are not interested and thanking them.

SECOND BY: Mr. Germanoski

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

Property No. 2016-3

The Open Space Sub-Committee will be scoring this property. Mr. Brian Regan, from Mr. Fitzpatrick's office, said this is about 20 acres. Mr. Regan and Mr. Fitzpatrick own the property and it was approved for a six-lot subdivision back in 2006. The real estate market went south so they sat on it. Recently, some developers were asking about it. Mr. Regan and Mr. Fitzpatrick wanted to see if the Township was interested in it as it's by the Cooks Creek watershed. Mrs. Yerger said are you looking to sell it fee simple, not an easement? Mr. Regan said yes. Mrs. Yerger asked about the timing? Mr. Regan said there is no urgency. Mrs. Yerger explained our procedure to Mr. Regan and how we evaluate the property. Mrs. Yerger said there would have to be an appraisal done on it. Mr. Hijazi said since you are pushed by a developer, do you have a price in mind. Mr. Regan said there was no offer from the developer as of this time.

Property No. 2016-4

Ted Beardsley will call the property owner to follow up with him to see if there have been any updates.

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. LATEX BASED RECYCLING EVENT – SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017 – 9 A.M. TO NOON AT LST – Michael Boyle and Thomas Carocci said they will help at this event.

B. EAC NETWORK 2017 CONFERENCE – MAY 4 – 6, 2017 – Mrs. Yerger said if you are interested in this conference, let Diane know and she will sign you up. The Township will pay for the cost.

C. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT – SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017 – 9 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

Mrs. Yerger said this event is in May and it's very heavily attending.

D. TERRY BOOS REPORT – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Boos said PennDOT had a very informative public open house meeting on January 25, 2017 on the Water Street bridge replacement over Saucon Creek. Construction will take place in 2019 from June to August. Traffic will be detoured to Walnut Street or into Bethlehem. Mr. Beardsley was concerned about the trucks traveling over the Meadows Road Bridge, so someone needs to inform the PD to make a bigger presence down there. He said there are a lot of trucks that still go over that bridge right now.

VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2016 MINUTES

MOTION BY: Mr. Germanoski moved for approval of the November 15, 2016 minutes.

SECOND BY: Mr. Beardsley

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson)

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Ray said since the property we are going to look at next is 20 acres and a lot of farmland, and a property down by the school which is farm fields, is it possible to ever work with a farming program to have people farm the lands or make use of it? With the program the school has, maybe they could do a greenhouse. She asked can we do anything like that on our properties or do we have restrictions? Mrs. Yerger said she has brought this up with the Township attorney and they are working through this process and looking into it. There are some restrictions with regard because it has to do with taxes and tax status. It's tax exempt and that's what the attorney is worried about if we'd have someone making money on it by farming. Ms. Ray said she was at a conference at State College and there are all kinds of farming interns and they don't have places to do things, but they use sustainable agriculture practices. Mrs. Yerger said they need to have some kind of maintenance that would have to be addressed. She will bring back information at the next meeting. Ms. Stanlick said she would be interested in helping Ms. Ray on this project.

Mrs. Yerger said there was a study done on possums and they realized that Lyme disease was way down because of a healthy, high possum population. They eat the ticks and the critters that carry the ticks. Also, possums cannot contract rabies, so they are very safe and very non-aggressive. She asked Ms. Ray to put this on the EAC website.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 8:24 p.m.

SECOND BY: Mr. Germanoski

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent: Mr. Johnson)

Sandra Yerger, Chair