

I. OPENING

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. NEW BUSINESS

- Dennis Araynos said he wanted to share information from the Morning Call. There's an article about most rivers and streams are contaminated with pesticides, and yet, near the end of the article, they are claiming we really don't have to be concerned as it's a minuscule amount. It's getting to a point where he reads these different articles and these stories, and he doesn't see any concrete statistics in anything, even this article. It's obvious streams are not as clean as they should be whether it's minuscule or not. They mention that there's a new contaminant which is agricultural and it's called atrazine. It's one of three herbicides used on farms that was most frequently found in agricultural streams. Apparently, they are blaming farmland as well, but on the other hand, he sees that in PA, we're losing an average of one farm per day which doesn't seem like much, but every day, are we eventually going to have no farmland and be dependent on getting our produce elsewhere. Mrs. Yerger said one of the things in PA is those of us who live this far east, between the Philadelphia and New York corridor, we tend to not realize that agricultural, if it's not still the number one industry in PA, it's number two. It's very close. We're losing industry and replacing it with residential homes which doesn't produce jobs or income. It's an issue. Mr. Araynos said he didn't want to make any general comment or statement; he just wanted to share this article with you for your own perusal. Mrs. Yerger handed out copies of the article. Mr. Araynos said if you saw the paper today, it is the farmer, and the barn is the farmer's pride. That's basically where he has everything, but from aesthetic viewpoint, they are saying we are losing all of this farmland, and losing aesthetic value as well.

Laura Ray arrived. The time was 7:03 p.m.

Tom Conlon arrived at 7:10 p.m.

- Laura Ray said she has a partial website and has some web pages. She will show everyone at the end of the meeting. Mr. Johnson said concerning what Dennis was talking about, in the 151 page report we got from Mr. Roth, he has a nice map that shows all of the Class I and Class II farmlands in our area. Class I and Class II are considered prize models. Class III is considered important to the state-wise basis. We have quite a bit of Class I and Class II farmlands. They are

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in little spots, not large acreages, maybe 20 acres here, 30 acres there, but if you look at the map, they are all over the place. Mr. Maxfield said he'd like to check that out.

- Laura Ray said she doesn't know if we were going to join up or help out with Cooks Creek Watershed on April 1, 2006. They are doing their cleanup that day, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. They meet at Springtown Fire House for coffee and donuts. They will give you garbage bags, gloves, and send you off on your way, and then they serve lunch back at the fire house. They will work on 412 coming towards Lower Saucon Township. Email Laura or Hans Riemann if you are interested in helping or call (610) 346-1604. Mr. Maxfield said to send this information to Gar Davidson from LSA and he will put it on their website. They can also post it on the bulletin board at the Township office. Mr. Riemann said you can bring your children along as there will be police protection. The EAC will make petition to the Lower Saucon Police Department to cover the other end of 412. Mr. Johnson would attend as well as Sandy Yerger, Tom Maxfield, Glenn Clouser and Laura Ray.
- Ms. Ray said she went over to see Tom Hilton talk again at the church in Bethlehem. He's very interesting to see and she was kind of disappointed that no one from Hellertown showed up. This would be wonderful for anyone involved in the SVP. The whole concept, he talks about reusing, creative reuse of buildings, how much money you can save by doing that, how they are easier to make energy efficient, how it's possible. It's just like they did with our school district where they went to a campus and think it's such a savings which it really isn't. He has a book, "Save Our Land, Save Our Town". That's a website also. Mrs. Yerger said he's from Pottstown. Laura Ray said he shows different ways they use the 75 year old buildings or renovate a factory and turn it into a school. Mrs. Yerger said Maryland now has passed a bill statewide and they are allowed to assess developer's impact fees for schools, all the expenses they are going to create within that municipality. The article said they are going to be assessing an impact fee of \$20,000 per housing unit. Needless to say, from the Maryland border, the developers are now leaping into PA and areas like York, Lancaster, and Harrisburg. All that southern border is now under tremendous pressure and that's where some of our best farms are. They are just gobbling them up and turning them into housing developments. It's only going to get worse. Ohio is considering the same thing. New York has already tightened their restrictions as is New Jersey. Right now what is happening to PA is we are becoming the residential housing hub for the surrounding states, the residential landfill.
- Mr. Beardsley said he talked to the people at the recycling place about computer recycling day. It was decided the date would be April 22 with the rain date of April 29 and alternate dates of May 13 and 20. The time would be 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- Mr. Riemann wanted to talk about the 2nd annual Native Plant sale. He was entrusted to put together a list that the EAC would promote this year. Last year there were prepaid sales for 168 pieces. We only had six choices. This year there will be 12 species. He was thinking of 6 perennials, 5 shrubs, and one canopy tree which is the Scarlet Oak, a beautiful fall foliage tree, which gets 60 to 70 feet tall. One of the small trees and shrubs, one is actually a woody vine and honeysuckle. He has service berry, arowood, red bud and trumpet honeysuckle on his property and they are beautiful plants. The perennials are dusty rose, purple, yellow yellow, red and blue. Most people don't know we have perennial sunflowers. We did well with the creeping flox last year. The date will be May 13, 2006 with orders having to be in by April 21, 2006 with your payment. This will go in the newsletter. Mr. Riemann has gone to some lectures this winter on native plants and the last one was on hedgerows. He found an interesting book there and is probably the most comprehensive and easy to read. It's only \$10 and if you want, he'd like to buy one for the library here. It doesn't give you all the native plants, but the ones you are most likely to encounter and ones that are easiest to grow easiest to find at native plant nurseries. It does have hands on advice, drawings, and deer resistant plants. Mr. Maxfield asked if we could go with some type of an evergreen also. Mr. Riemann said we could use the Cedar Juniper as an evergreen. Mr. Tralies

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from Boucher & James said they could consider a Paw Paw or American Plum tree. Mr. Riemann said he could find out about the Paw Paw tree. Mr. Riemann said he's not sure if "Edge of the Woods" has the fruit tree, but he will check on it. Mr. Tralies said he knows the people dealing with the plant sale in Montgomery Township, and they get their plants from Collins Native Nursery. He will get the information and pass it on to Mr. Riemann. Mr. Riemann will get back to the EAC with the complete list. "Edge of the Woods" actually had a display at the LV Garden Show this past weekend. You can tell people they could have a preview next year of plants that would be for sale in the spring. They are in Fogelsville and are having a lot of success.

II. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. BRE PRELIMINARY LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Maxfield said A and C are ones we looked at before. The only recommendation we made last time was to use native plants in the screening of it and we probably had the same recommendation for Lehigh Gas. They are almost through the process, but BRE has a new submission. There's not really too much on there, a couple of wetlands, but it seems they have the wetlands feeding into detention ponds to handle the excess water and there's not a whole lot there that we can make comment on. It's a very restricted site. It's surrounded by three wetland areas, and all streams flow down into that direction. We made some recommendations on sound and noise and things like that and air and all of those have been addressed already. They are working with the air quality people and they are also mentioned their intent to baffle the sound to meet the ordinance, so we're down to the actual building of it now. Mrs. Yerger said what about naturalizing the detention basin. Mr. Maxfield said we can do that and echo use native plantings as the screening.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to recommend using native plants for the screening for the BRE Land Development plan as well as possibly naturalizing the detention basin with native plants.
SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson
ROLL CALL: All in Favor
None Opposed

B. FILLER MAJOR LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Maxfield said this was originally part of a major subdivision involving a couple more properties. We're not really sure why, but at this point in time they've decided they want to subdivide the existing house and some land around it off of one of the tracks of land. There is an existing application in with the township that was called a minor submission and the township considered it not a complete submission because they called it a minor instead of a major, so that one is floating around out there also. This one has been submitted in the meantime which they now have called a major. He doesn't know why there are two floating at the same time, but this seems to be the more serious one. They've been before Council and asked for a waiver to retain the street trees that would probably have to be torn down in order to make improvements on the road. That's maybe one recommendation we would want to make since there is an existing request for a waiver out there, we can make the suggestion that we would support that waiver. Ms. Ray said was it to widen the road or change the intersection? Mr. Maxfield said eventually the intersection will be changed. He's not sure if this intersection is going to be a part of this subdivision or part of the overall major subdivision. You can see how they are trying to realign it by getting rid of that sharp, acute angle on the road and probably put a 3-way stop sign. Mr. Johnson said there are a lot of trees. Mr. Conlon said he'd be in favor to taking these trees out and planting new trees in a different line because this is a traffic hazard and it really narrows it down. The township made the developer over here put in a wide street which is good but right in front of the Filler house, is a dangerous spot.

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Mr. Beardsley said after you go by Filler's house if they are going to subdivide it later, they are going to make them widen it there, and so this would be the only section that isn't widened. Mr. Maxfield said the ordinance calls for them to be removed now, so maybe we just want to say nothing. They would probably have to do street plantings per the ordinance. On the other hand, the trees running down the side of the property, maybe you'd want to make a recommendation there that the line be maintained if any of those trees are on that property or that it be enhanced.

Mr. Conlon said Four Seasons had it surveyed and half of the trees were on one side of the property and the other half were on the Filler property. They could be destroyed, although the developer might want to keep the trees. What troubled him was the application said they were going to on lot water and sewer. That's hard to believe. Mr. Maxfield said for the major or just for this? Mr. Conlon said the one that was for the Filler property, the 22 acres. Mr. Maxfield said they might be talking about just that property because they've applied for sewer for the rest of it. They've got septic and well now. Mr. Conlon said this is the 22 acres. Mr. Maxfield said no the whole thing is 22 acres, that's just 2 acres.

Mrs. Yerger said what they are trying to do is protect his right to have on lot sewage and once they have it for the other major subdivision, they'll do the application. They have already requested EDU's for sewage. Mr. Maxfield said originally he would have been one of the lots of the whole giant subdivision, but what's going on now, he just wants to sell the property and get out from under it and still have his lot. That way he'll be subdivided off and be taken care of. They can proceed on with their business, he can settle up with them. Mr. Conlon said the power line is not shown on the map. Mr. Maxfield said that wouldn't affect this particular one. That'll have to be dealt with when they do the major.

Mr. Conlon said we should put in a school bus station while we're at it. There's a sign there, and it's very dangerous for the kids to stand out there on the road. Mr. Maxfield said he doesn't know if we can make it for this one, but he could suggest that to the Planning Commission. That would be down on the bend. There is noting that will change on the property other than drawing this line that doesn't exist now. They are not going to put any new buildings, widen the road, not going to add another house or do another subdivision or anything. Is everyone okay if we say nothing about the trees out front? EAC agreed and let the ordinance take care of that and let them apply for the waiver. The only recommendation is to maintain the trees along the property line with Four Seasons or possibly enhance the tree line if it's in bad shape to provide appropriate screening.

MOTION BY: Mr. Araynos moved that they maintain and enhance the tree line.
SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger
ROLL CALL: All in Favor
None Opposed

Ted Beardsley left. The time was 8:06 PM.

C. LEHIGH GAS CORPORATE OFFICE FINAL PLAN

Mr. Maxfield said we can echo what we said before since there hasn't been any changes to the plan that would affect us. It was native plantings once again for screening.

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved as stated above by Mr. Maxfield.
SECOND BY: Mr. Araynos
ROLL CALL: All in Favor
None Opposed

III. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. 2006 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Mr. Maxfield said this would be our last chance to add goals or objectives. He'll be typing it up and sending it to Council. Does anyone have any last minute recommendations? Mr. Conlon said maybe we can have some videos or guest speakers. He likes the presentations as it's educational. Mrs. Yerger said all the goals are on page 5 of 6 in the minutes. Mr. Maxfield said what we could do for a five year goal would be something like to continue to make recommendations and do review of township ordinances. Mr. Johnson said in the last paragraph, under objectives, he mentioned having a goal to do with sustainable energy. He asked to put it on the list. Mr. Maxfield said he'll take this list with the addition of Allan's and Tom's and submit it to Council.

B. RIPARIAN BUFFER ISSUES/SAUCON CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION PROJECTS

Mrs. Yerger said there has been a movement to create a Saucon Creek Watershed Association (SCWA). It does meet at the Heller Homestead the second Saturday of the month. The next meeting is March 11. They are going to be laying down some concrete plans with the help of Rebecca Haden of the Lehigh Valley Conservation District to actually now get the basics of the formation of the Saucon Creek and get all the logistics in place as far as whether they are going to elect officers and how they are going to run the organization, update on the Thomas Iron Works, and she's not sure why she put determination of the flood plain of the Saucon Creek. It might have to do with mapping issues. Hopefully some of you will be able to join us.

Mr. Conlon said another activity on the Saucon Creek is the reactivation of the Saucon Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited. They've had one general membership meeting. They are planning a stream clean up on Earth Day on April 22. He is a member of it.

Mr. Maxfield said the March 11 SCWA meeting is the same date as the information you got in your packet that we were asking about the Peck Conference, which a couple of us are going to be attending, so it would be nice if you can't go to the one to go to the other. The SCWA really needs your support. Mr. Johnson said he hopes they are including tributaries in their plans and studies. Mrs. Yerger said they are. She just received a copy of the application from Northampton & Lehigh County Conservation Districts to DEP to do the watershed assessment. Mrs. Yerger said one of the things that we need to keep an eye on is something Tom and her have become aware of. The East Branch of the Saucon Creek tends to sometimes get shoved aside because it runs through old steel brownfields before it actually then empties into the Lehigh. So they say, oh well, it goes to brownfields anyway, why worry about it. It's something we need to address and keep on our radar.

Mr. Johnson said it was always that you couldn't go on BSC property, but now that property is owned by different people and it's part of an industrial park. Mr. Maxfield said he went to a workshop and they were talking about legalities of entering into the streams and it had to do navigable streams and non-navigable streams. Mrs. Yerger said the Saucon is navigable, they determined that. Mr. Maxfield said no, he said he wasn't sure, but if it is navigable you are allowed to go in the streams, wade in it, swim in it, walk in it plus you're allowed to be anywhere on the sides of the stream underneath the high water mark. If it's a non-navigable stream, which it possibly could be, you are at least allowed to float down the stream as long as you don't get out and touch bottom or touch the sides. If you can legally enter the stream, you could take that boat all the way down the site. It's a water of the commonwealth. Mrs. Yerger said if we're really interested in walking that part of the Saucon, she can probably get us permission, but she needs to make a few phone calls. EAC members said that is something they would be interested in doing. Mr. Clouser said he knows someone who has ownership of the BSC properties and he may be able to help to get

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access to it. Mr. Maxfield said that would be great. Mrs. Yerger said Wildlands has gotten permission to walk that property to do a visual assessment. If we expressed an interest, they could probably get us permission to go in also. Mr. Maxfield said there is a conservation easement area through the Saucon Creek and have always been led to believe. They've seen a map with an easement through there. The township should probably have knowledge of it, why don't we ask about it. Mr. Maxfield will ask Mr. Spirk on the Parks and Rec board to find out.

C. MINI OPEN SPACE PLAN

Mr. Tralies of Boucher and James said he hasn't driven around or made real decisions on particular areas of the township. He has been reading a lot of different open space plans for a lot of different municipalities in the area trying to figure out what they've done that would work, what they've done that won't work and sort of picking and choosing and starting to lay ground work for a real document. That's what is in front of you. A lot of it to begin with, may look similar to the mini open space plan and that's okay right now because we want to try to make it sort of a two-part document, so you'll see a lot of places where he referenced the mini open space plan for information about this or for history or statistics, things like that. It doesn't make sense to redo that. Mrs. Yerger said on goal 7 and 9, page 2, she thinks "create links to/from natural areas" and "create links which connect Township across Route 78". Those are going to be two of our biggest challenges. We have all of these wonderful wooded knobs if you look at the map. The real trick to this is connecting these knobs.

Mr. Tralies said after the goals, what he started to do also was look at the township in smaller areas. Tom and Sandy talked to him about the Six Hills area, Steel City, different parts of the township that are vastly different than the rest of the township, so he wanted to put in information that was specific to those areas. He's not at a point where he knows this township well enough to be able to identify all of these different areas just from driving through them and seeing them. He needs to do a lot more research and talking to people. From there, he wanted to do an inventory of what we do have to figure out what we need. The things we do have that we need to figure out are where do we already have open space, where do we have park land, where do we have entitlements such as schools or libraries or recreation facilities that have their own fields associated with them. A piece of property that a library or school is on or a park isn't the same as open space but they can all work together and it does make sense to link these areas together. After the inventory, we would take some conclusions from that and figure out what we need and move on to what he has labeled as preservation narrative which would be where we would start to get into talking about what the township does want, what the township does need and move into the checklist idea that we talked about. He's seen a couple different ways to do this kind of checklist approach and some do very tight mathematics, assigning points for this and then multiplying it by acreage and doing all kinds of calculations. That certainly has some merit, but he's a little bit wary about tying ourselves into something that is so mathematic. If we end up with 10 properties that we would want to preserve, maybe the top five of them come out with a few points difference. Maybe the one that is fifth on the list is really just as important as the one that's first on the list, but maybe we get the opportunity to preserve the one that's fifth on the list and people are wondering what good is your list of priorities if now you are telling us we need to preserve the property that is fifth or sixth down the list. He'd suggest dividing our areas we want to target into tiers of maybe most appropriate for preservation, moderately appropriate, so on and so forth.

We should talk a little bit about the individual criteria that he as listed. He ended up with a longer list. The first one is location and recreation value. That's meaning sites which are located centrally and have the potential to provide open space to much of the township or sites that are quite the opposite and they are located in portions of the township which are tucked off in a corner that would only serve a certain portion of the township that may not have access to open space now. It's saying it's important to preserve spaces that everybody can use and it's also important to

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preserve spaces that not everybody can use. That sounds a little wishy washy right now, but when we start to encounter real areas, you'll know what it means and be able to discern which are which.

Mr. Tralies said next on the list is agriculture. We were told before there is not really prime agricultural soil in the township. He heard Allan say there may be now according to Harry Roth's last plan which he has, but hasn't gotten a chance to read yet. He'll look into that further, but in the meantime he tried to define areas which we could target as agricultural in more general terms. He wrote areas that are currently used for agricultural production, formerly used for agricultural production, areas with the potential to be used for agricultural production or areas which display characteristics of agricultural areas such as farm houses, fallow fields or hedgerows. Mr. Maxfield said that covers what we had problems with and that's good.

Mr. Tralies said next there is the long list of natural resources that are already in the zoning ordinance. For now he just has them listed in the final document to expand on them and copy their definition right front the zoning ordinance. After that, there are additional natural resource which are not in the zoning ordinance, things like exceptional value streams, endangered animal species habitat and presence of endangered plant species. Things that are important, but just aren't in the zoning ordinance. After that, historic or culturally important sites which could be things on the Register of Historic Places, or again, more general, things that we know are important to the township. After that, he listed scenic value and this is another one where he played it both ways. First listing sites that can contribute strongly to the aesthetic quality of the township, sites which provide scenic views of the township or region, and then sites which strongly detract from the aesthetic quality and/or general character of the township or region and present potential for remediation in order to vastly improve the scenic value which goes back to what you were talking about along one of the creek corridors – trying to clean up brownfields, trying to improve spaces that are a mess. Mr. Yerger said the only thing under d) Additional Landfill Resources, is you may want to factor in recommendations of the NRI. Mr. Maxfield said you may want to also add on d) i) Exceptional value streams/high quality streams. Mrs. Yerger said on c) Natural Resources add vernal pools.

Mr. Tralies said after the scenic value, he went to links which provide opportunities to create links between preserved open space, recreation areas, etc., and also links between LS and other municipalities in the area.

Mr. Tralies said after that, he has listed development pressure and that's highlighted as he wanted to talk about that with the EAC. He's seen some open space plans listed, others do not. His comment is that it seems a logical attribute to access when deciding to acquire a property, however, as financial landscape, development pressure and trends can change very quickly, he hesitates to include it in the checklist. His reasoning is that similar to not wanting to get tied down in the checklist, he also didn't want to make comments in a plan that goes on paper and then have things change in the township and have it not correspond with the plan. He wanted to ask how you felt about if you wanted to include development pressure as part of the criteria. Mr. Maxfield said he likes where you are going with it because things can change. Mrs. Yerger said one of the things, an example of how things can change, is just the whole idea of septic systems. There are properties now that are being developed with sand mounds and they just plop a sand mound in, so it doesn't take real long. Mr. Tralies said he would rather approach it as the entire township is under development pressure than pointing out a few areas. Mr. Maxfield said if that is okay with everyone to not include development pressure in this? EAC agreed. Mr. Tralies said he can write that in a different portion, probably in the overall introduction. Mr. Maxfield said you might be able to do is reference the LVPC overall plan for the area that we are seeing on the fringe of the most intensive development, moderate development area, which would put us under moderate development areas. It's an overall plan on how they expect development to occur, like a regional comp plan.

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Mr. Tralies said after Criteria, is the area where we actually to start to list targeted areas. As it is right now, it's just three little lines, description of the area based on the location in the township meaning writing a little paragraph, this is an area out of Steel City, so on and so forth, and then go on describing how it fits into the check list and describe how we could possibly use it. Right now, it's three lines, but will turn out to be the most important part of the report, probably a couple of pages. After that we would wrap the whole thing up with a conclusion, just recap the plan and repeat the introduction, make reference to the mini open space plan where Harry Roth has lists of ways to acquire open space. After that, you usually have a lot of maps. He's seen a couple of them reproduce some other maps from other plans such as regional or county plans along with their own maps for their township and he has a beginning of a list of useful maps to put in there. We would attach portions of some of the relevant documents such as the zoning ordinance, the SALDO ordinance, comp plans, the natural resources study and the mini open space plan which the two new ones that were just mentioned any anything else we come across that we think would be important. That's where he is right now.

Mr. Maxfield said last time we were talking about TDR's a little bit and the mini open space plan came before the PC, and the recommendation was not to include TDR's because of the unavailable space. He would think it's not something that would be applicable to this right now. Mr. Tralies said it's not here right now; he wanted to wait until we see what's out there. Mr. Maxfield said it may still be in the mini, but the recommendation was to remove it.

Mrs. Yerger said under criteria, two things we may or may not want to consider is as an element of the criteria, availability and size – is the size of the parcel going to play a factor in this as opposed to one sixteen acre parcel or 16 one-acre parcel which may have more value. Mr. Tralies said that should be included. Mr. Tralies said if you look at the Filler property, if this was done five years ago, if the Filler property was a good property to preserve, hopefully it would have been identified. The only way to answer is hopefully we do this correctly and do a good job and it works. Mr. Maxfield said the reason that Polk Valley Park would fit, would be one be size as it was bigger than the Filler property and also development pressure as at that point and time it was 190 some units for Polk Valley. That's probably why they went with Polk Valley, he's guessing that. Ms. Ray said who does the actual work of identifying? Mr. Tralies said we would do, in the document, where you get to 7, to identify group areas targeted for preservation; we would make more general recommendations about areas. We talked about last time we didn't want to get specific in properties because we didn't want to look like we were picking on one owner versus another, so we would try to stick to areas and characteristics. So when it would come time to make a decision on the Filler property versus whatever other property, the guidelines would be here for Council or whoever would be making that decision, to pick up and use the guidelines and they'd still have to make the final decision, but hopefully, there would be enough information in front of them to do it. Mrs. Yerger said if a property owner is interested in preservation of property, how would the process start with that, which would they notify. Ms. Ray said maybe that should be part of our plan. How do you let people know this is our plan? Mrs. Yerger said this could be advertised. Mr. Maxfield said we have to send an official document or it could be under public education and that might be a role the EAC can take. Mr. Maxfield said once we give this to Council and it gets accepted, yes, we should be pushing this and promoting this. It could be on our website. Mr. Maxfield said there are areas that when he was driving around the township, and he hears about storm water problems, there are areas that he knows if they go to development, some of those areas, how would we get that into criteria as it will just get worse. Mr. Tralies said we already have a handful of criteria that are sites with problems already, brownfields or not just aesthetically pleasing sites. We can write something in about problem sites. Mrs. Yerger said what about hydro soils? Mr. Maxfield said they may not be wetlands, just absorption areas that puddle the water down into the aquifer. Mrs. Yerger said maybe we should just include hydro soils anyway. Mr. Tralies said he does have flood plain soils listed. Mrs. Yerger said okay. Mr. Clouser said maybe you can categorize as general watershed drainage areas without saying a stream. It has to do with

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the topography. Mr. Maxfield said it would be like watershed protection areas/watershed drainage areas. Mr. Tralies said he knows he has something in here that mentions health, safety and welfare. Mr. Maxfield said on page 1, no. 4, protect/rehabilitate properties which directly affect groundwater or other resources which may have a direct effect on the health, safety and welfare of the community. Mr. Maxfield said that is excellent.

Mr. Johnson said one more concept to include in this open space action plan. There are areas of the township that are already developed, but the total area that the houses are on, and the area in between the houses, if you take it all together, it's a nice natural resource. For instance, that Kings Mill Road, those houses are all built in the woods, and they didn't tear down all of the woods, and the stream that flows through there – is there any way we could encourage that area to be like considered valuable. An area that is already developed, but it's still valuable. Mrs. Yerger said has some natural features left. Mr. Tralies said do you know if any of it is deed restricted? Mrs. Yerger said that's what we were talking about and we have to look into it. Mr. Johnson said he's not thinking of something that we could acquire as open space, he's just thinking of it as something we could identify as still being a valuable natural resource and try to make the lot owners aware of it and maybe they could nurture their land instead of not.

Mr. Maxfield said that seems it would almost be public education in a way as what you'd have to do is push the value of it. He said we lived in an area that is covered with woods, so to him the natural state is not lawn. He doesn't know how we are going to get that across to a lot of people that lawn is something we should be looking at. Mr. Johnson said if some of those areas could be identified in this study, that haven't been totally ruined by developed and are worth having some caring about. The Church Hill Development, these people are putting two acres on 22 acres of land, that 22 acres of remaining land is still something to kind of value. It's not totally destroyed, so those areas could be somehow identified in this study and then later on we could try to educate the property owners that they might be motivated to preserve it. Mr. Tralies said that's the reason he wanted to know if any of them were deed restricted because when we are doing the inventory here, if there are subdivisions that have required preserved woodlands that they are not allowed to cut, then he would definitely include those areas. If they are not restricted, then we kind of get back to the same thing with the development, I'll never cut down my trees and then they sell the property to somebody and they are all gone before our plan is out.

Mr. Johnson said there hasn't been much restricting of anything in the past. Mrs. Yerger said one of the other things we are going to have to factor in is private conservation easements in the way of acquiring that information. Mr. Maxfield said that's a good idea, wherever we know something like that exists where there is significant protection. Mr. Riemann said he can't stress enough the mapping of the water resources like springs. Ms. Ray said that's why we want to get a GPS device. Mr. Maxfield said we got the okay for that. Mr. Riemann said open space starts with your water. You have to map all the water resources first, then the conservation district. We do have an example of that now in the township, the Cook's Creek Watershed, where it has been mapped. We get 50% more water resources than was on the maps.

Mr. Johnson said when he was looking at Harry Roth's report, the big map he was talking about, there's a lot of little streams out there. They are on there, so it might be a good thing for Mr. Tralies to look at. Mr. Maxfield said a lot of the streams don't have names and we should start giving them names.

Mr. Johnson said remember when they were talking about the weed ordinance and Mr. Maxfield said that it's a good idea to not cut down weeds. He doesn't know how we could do it, but it would be a good idea not to as it cuts down on the storm water drainage. Mr. Maxfield said when they brought up the weed ordinance before, he was surprised at the outcry from older farmers, from everybody, and it was very bizarre. They came up with a solution, which he isn't happy with at all,

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the setbacks of property lines which means if you have an acre, you really can't do much anyway, but there should be a plan if someone says I want to reinforce an area or let an area go back to nature, here we are at Southeaster Park putting in a meadow, but we don't allow anyone to have one. It's been one of his goals and redoing the lighting ordinance.

Mr. Johnson said since this report is going to be a guideline for the future, if you could include some of these ideas in there somewhere, it would be on paper for people to talk about in the future. Mr. Maxfield said the problem with the weed ordinance, was if you make an ordinance, it's got to be township wide. Mr. Johnson said couldn't overlay zones be an exception to the overall ordinances. Mr. Maxfield said he doesn't think you can do it like that. The way Linc explained it, there was no way he could explain that we could do it to limit it to the east side of the township and limit it to rural areas, you just couldn't. Mr. Johnson said one way you could get around it is planting a garden of natural plants like fruit trees and you wouldn't have to cut it and it wouldn't be lawn.

Mr. Tralies said Richland Township has an ordinance that approaches it a little bit differently. They just basically have a list of noxious plants. You can't have this growing, you can't have this, etc., etc., but you could in theory plant golden rods, etc, but the problem is when someone does complain, it ended up falling up on our office to go out and inspect somebody's lawn and have to walk through and look for whatever is on the list and we deal with trees, shrubs, and your standard perennials all the time, but most of us in our office are not real, real familiar with all of the other ones.

Mr. Maxfield said that's how it used to be. There was a list of things and when Ann Rhoades came through, she said you know you have endangered plants on the plants that you have to clear from your yard plus they said the list was so inclusive, that everybody's yard in the township was probably in violation. We went too far the other way, and he's sure there is a healthy place in the middle.

Mr. Johnson said since the weed ordinance does exist, and we're approaching the growing season, the question he always has is when is the best time to cut it so the little rabbits and things don't get chopped up. Mr. Maxfield said it's early, early spring and the second one would be late October after the birds are done, after the first frost. Mr. Maxfield said it also can't be above 12 inches, and someone can call about it. It's messed up, we should just start all over again.

Mr. Tralies said if anyone has anything else to please let him know.

D. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 7, 2006 MINUTES

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to approve the February 7, 2006 minutes.
SECOND BY: Ms. Ray
ROLL CALL: All in Favor
None Opposed

IV. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. HELLERTOWN REPORT

Mr. Maxfield talked to Mike earlier, and he had nothing to report. It seems like Hellertown is scheduling meetings that he has to be at on the same night as the EAC.

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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- Mr. Johnson said a while back he asked if the township zoning map was going to be updated. What's the story on that? Mrs. Yerger said it's in the process right now. They are feeding in the source water protection plan, and some other data. Mr. Johnson said the township sent us Harry Roth's report, it's 151 pages, couldn't they possibly print that out for us as we should be reading it? Mr. Maxfield said they were going to ask them, as his computer won't even download it. They will work on that. Mr. Johnson said the maps from Harry Roth's plan, he would request that the township print out at least one of every map in a larger size for our meetings. Mr. Maxfield said we can make that recommendation.

MOTION BY: Mr. Johnson moved to make the recommendation that Township takes on the responsibility of printing out copies of Harry Roth's plan and desize the maps for the open space plan, if possible, for the EAC, just one map.

SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson

ROLL CALL: All in Favor
None opposed

- Mrs. Yerger said we've been talking about possibly recommending an EIT to Council. She handed out a municipal guide that was done for using conservation easements to preserve open space. This was a series of five and they'll be one more she'll be giving out. She's trying to give all the background information on what we hope to accomplish, and some of the tools we can use. Mr. Maxfield said they will also ask the township "maps for visuals". Mr. Riemann said speaking of maps, he was talking about your agricultural soils map, is that where your open space plan is now? Mr. Maxfield said that's what Allan was talking about earlier tonight, it's probably in the mini open space plan. Mr. Johnson said there was an extensive study in Northampton County. It does exist. Mr. Riemann said we refer to it heavily in Springfield as we have a lot of prime agricultural soils. Mr. Johnson said the book has maps and it refers to different areas. Mr. Johnson has a copy and will bring it along to the next meeting.
- Ms. Ray had a laptop and showed EAC members the website that she is working on. If anyone has anything for her to put on it, pictures, any ideas, please get it to her.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mrs. Yerger moved to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:27 PM.

SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson

ROLL CALL: All in Favor: Yes
Opposed: None