

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:03 P.M., at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members:** Chair, Sandra Yerger; Laura Ray, Colin Guerra, Ted Beardsley and Allan Johnson. Absent: Tom Maxfield, Vice Chair.

**Associate Members:** Dru Germanoski, Tom McCormick & Glenn Kaye.

**Planner:** Karen Mallo – Boucher & James – Absent

**Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos - Absent

**Jr. EAC Member:** Tara Jain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**A. PROPERTY UPDATES**

Mr. Beardsley said they went to see one of the properties that the realtor, Art Morgan, is handling. It's next to the rail road track in Steel City. The Sub-Committee is calling the parcel "Art Morgan Realtor Property in Steel City". It's next to the Lehigh River and the firehouse.

Mr. McCormick said it is 7-1/2 acres according to the listing. The real estate agent said he believes it's slightly higher. It is at the Steel City point and it's the bank of the Lehigh River. That point has two parcels right next to each other. The one in the west is the one that's for sale. The one to the east is currently owned by the railroad company. It was acquired by a man who purchased almost 2,000 pieces of land across five counties. Then he died, and his heirs have been fighting over this for many, many years. They've slowly sold the parcels and this is one of the few remaining that is for sale. They would be delighted to sell it to the Township. The asking price is \$3,500.00 except that it has about \$100,000.00 in accrued and unpaid property taxes because for about twenty years, while it was in litigation, nobody was paying it and that was okay because the court apparently issued some kind of protective order where no one could act against the property while they figured out who was really entitled to it. Over that time, taxes have piled up to the tune of about \$100,000.00. The seller right now, the real estate agent, is saying if you pay us the \$100,000.00, we'll clear all the back taxes. If, on the other hand, as a Township, if you were to acquire it and if there's some way you would not be liable for those taxes as an exempt organization, that was his point. They would sell it for \$3,500.00; \$2,500.00 in court cost and \$1,000.00 to the realtor for his fee. Then the tax problem might be your problem, but maybe you don't care as you are a municipality and you are exempt and he doesn't know if that's a good idea or not. It would certainly take some looking into, but they are not looking to get rich on it. The property is really beautiful on the sense that it's fully wooded and it's right across from an island in the middle as the Lehigh is sort of split there. There is a little house on the property. It was a stone farmhouse that looks to be like 200 years old and it's all collapsed. The sidewalls are still up and the fire place is still there, but no roof and all the wood is rotted out. The other problem is it's entirely landlocked by the railroad. While we were there for an hour, three freight trains went through. They looked left, looked right, and jumped over the tracks to go and visit it. He doesn't see it being feasible for any kind of public access because you'd have to get across the railroad tracks. The train track is active which bounds the entire southern border of the property.

Mr. Beardsley said he handed out copies, and it's just opposite where it says "Riverside Drive". It's being used now by kids. They are playing in the woods. It's been used by hunters and it's probably used by fisherman. It could be purchased and be left just the way it is and people just do what they've been doing for years there.

Mr. McCormick said it looks like a place like if he grew up around here, he'd hang out there on a Saturday night. It's beautiful, the river is right there.

Mrs. Yerger said do you know off hand if it looks like you can access the property and there's not a steep drop? Mr. McCormick said on one end of the end of the property, it's a fairly steep drop, but that slope grades down and for much of the property, you can just walk in. It's entirely forested. You can see whether it's hunters, fishermen, or kids as there are paths worn in. Even some people have hatched a limb out of the way and looks like they have been going here for years. It's beautiful. As far as development potential, he thinks you'd have to be pretty hard pressed to want to put your house on the other side of the train track. There's no trestle, no crossing. It's a commercial piece of land. The other opportunity is the real estate agent called the railroad company about the piece next door and they said sure, they'd sell it. He assumes they are current on their taxes. Who knows if they'd be looking for a lot of money. The only reason you scratch your head about it is because it is so beautiful and it's a significant portion of the banks of the Lehigh River. It's an entire point and it's forested and really pretty. The tax issues, someone would have to weigh in whether if the municipality buys it, that's all forgiven. He doesn't know how any of that works. They scored it.

Mr. Johnson said it probably has 1,000 feet of shoreline. The ruins of the old farmhouse are dangerous. If we would buy the property, we'd have to knock it down or put a big fence around it. If the property was historically significant, you wouldn't want to knock it down. It's dangerous for a Township to own and take liabilities for. Mrs. Yerger said now it's getting expensive. Mr. Beardsley said it depends about the taxes, if it's expensive or not. Mrs. Yerger said she thinks the other big thing is access and the liability with having access across train tracks on an active line. She doesn't know if it would be understood if it's Township property that people can access it and it opens us to liabilities.

Mr. McCormick said you probably can't feasibly allow for access, so therefore, then it's about do you want to protect it as it is naturally beautiful and it is habitat and it has slopes. The question is do you need to protect it and he doesn't know if you had all the money in the world if you could build there. It seems to him if we don't do anything, it's just going to stay exactly the way it is now for a long, long time, but the only thing he keeps coming back to is if some clever lawyer or Township person could tell us that it could be done for \$3,500.00 instead of \$100,000.00. Then he thinks how do you not do it.

Mrs. Yerger said you scored it, and submit the score and we can certainly bring this up and call on the Sub-Committee if we need additional information.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Germanoski, on the county database, they have a GIS pin number, do you know what that is? Mr. Germanoski said it's probably a reference number for them to get the whole data file, but he doesn't know offhand.

Mr. Kaye asked where the property was located? Mr. McCormick said you head north on Route 412 and bear right into Steel City. Ms. Palik asked if there was a name for this property? Mr. Beardsley said they are calling it the "Art Morgan Realtor Property in Steel City". The parcel number is N7SE41A0719. Mr. McCormick said it appears for sale and the price asked is \$100,000.00 to settle the taxes.

**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**February 8, 2011**

Mr. Johnson said Art Morgan identifies the owner as Florence Marra, Sr. Estate. The owner of record on the Northampton County database is Robin Glenn Kennedy. Mr. Beardsley said that's why it's in court. If the court can't decide who owned it, we won't be able to. Mr. McCormick said that's actually settled now. In 2008, they figured that all out and that's why they've been selling the property.

Mrs. Yerger said do you want to make any kind of recommendation to have the attorney look into the tax situation. Mr. Beardsley said yes. How would we go about asking how the taxes be addressed. Have the county and the school district forgive us the taxes if we buy it and then you can forgive your own self for the local taxes. We can buy it for \$3,500.00 then. Mr. Johnson said also look into the legality of the access issue with the railroad tracks.

Ms. Ray said how do we determine a value on the property as it's not developable? Mr. McCormick said not if you are going to buy it for \$3,500.00 cash. We're not trying to get a conservation easement. It's just \$3,500.00. Mrs. Yerger said once we address the legalities of the \$100,000.00 of back taxes and we would want to consider proceeding, we would actually, by state law, have to get an appraisal of the property, even for acquisition even if it's selling for the legal minimum to record the deed transfer? Mrs. Yerger said that's another legal point she's not sure about. Mr. Beardsley said it's protected by this court order, but now that they decided the ownership, maybe that protection is gone and we could foreclose. Mr. McCormick said the first line would be the school district. You are going to sheriff sale it. No one is going to pay for it because you can't get to it. Therefore, we'll take it over and we'll own it subject to a lien to the school, which again, if you can get it for \$3,500.00 do it. If you can't, forget it. That just seems the way to go.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Beardsley moved to recommend that the Township Attorney, Linc Treadwell, look into the legal issues of the back taxes and the access issue, via the railroad tracks, as amended by Allan Johnson for the "Art Morgan Realtor Property in Steel City, Parcel No. N7SE41A0719.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Guerra
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Maxfield – Absent)

Mrs. Yerger said they will forward this to the Township attorney and have him look into it.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

- Mrs. Yerger said we've had several resignations to the EAC for various reasons. Mr. Hijazi has not been here much as his father has been very ill and he's been flying back and forth to the mid-east for nine months. He has handed in his resignation. Ms. Tokura has handed in her resignation. She has taken on a new job and is opening her own business. Ms. Dancho also resigned as she has had multiple surgeries. If you have anyone in mind that you would like to encourage in joining the EAC, let Mrs. Yerger know.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Johnson moved to recommend that Mr. Tom McCormick be moved into a voting position to fill Mr. Hijazi's vacancy, which ends 12/31/2013. He would go from an Associate Member to a Member.
- SECOND BY:** Ms. Laura Ray
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Maxfield – Absent)

- Mr. McCormick said are they going to put the other vacant positions in the paper? Mrs. Yerger said they have been putting it in the newsletter and on our website. Mr. Johnson said does our motion have to be okayed by Council? Mrs. Yerger said yes, this is a motion for recommendation. Mr. Cahalan will bring it forward to Council and it should be addressed on March 16. Mr. McCormick's term will end whenever Mr. Hijazi's term ends.

- Mr. McCormick said Mr. Beardsley forgot to ask about the new score card for open space. Mrs. Yerger said you were supposed to come back with recommendations on whether you wanted to adopt a new way as opposed to the old way and we didn't do that. Mr. Beardsley said they modified the chart a little bit so they need to talk to Laura Baird about it. Mr. McCormick said it was barely a little tweak and it was emailed to Mrs. Yerger and Ms. Baird. He will resend the email to Mrs. Yerger. The next meeting we will formerly propose it, but in the meantime, Mrs. Yerger can look at it. Mr. McCormick said they just changed one little number. Mrs. Yerger said that's fine. Mr. McCormick said please chat with Ms. Baird. Mrs. Yerger said she will talk to her.

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 8, 2011 MINUTES**

Mr. Germanoski said on page 2 of 8, line 53, the word sound should be sounds great. Page 5 of 8, line 39, insert the word so it would say “and then get some data on the ones.

Mr. Johnson said on page of 8, line 13, it should read “then that would take the pressure off for doing it on the rail trail.”

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Beardsley moved for approval of the February 8, 2011 minutes, with corrections.  
**SECOND BY:** Ms. Ray  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Maxfield – Absent)

**VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**A. OPEN SPACE EIT REFERENDUM**

Mrs. Yerger said you have a copy of the ordinance that posed the question at the last election. We need to get this recorded at the courthouse. We talked about it at the February meeting and it was agreed we wanted to keep the 0.25% for open space acquisition. This is the ordinance that enabled it to go onto the ballot. We can review it tonight and if we want any changes or we can just go ahead and approve it. It would be to continue as opposed to enact and continue because it's already in place. That would be the only suggestion she has. She asked if there was anything to be added or changed? Ms. Ray said she had a question about Section 2 where it says what we use the money for. She doesn't know if it's accurate on (a) acquire agricultural conservation easements. It's not necessarily always agricultural easements. She's not sure why we only had that listed. Mr. McCormick said he had the same comment and you could argue that we're still okay to do regular open space conservation easements under (b), but it does say to purchase real property interest which would include the acquisition of conservation easements. He still thinks her point is right. If you are going to the trouble in (a) to spell out agricultural conservation easements, the question would be why did you limit it to that or why didn't you. It was that way in the 06 version as well and that was probably borrowed from whatever version which was maybe intended to be limited to ag. He thinks everything we've done is fine. Under (b) you can purchase real property interest, which would include conservations easements. Mrs. Yerger said she knows this came up before and she's struggling on five years ago why it was positioned this way. Mrs. Yerger said her only concern is, as an FYI, for the educational component, the word “easement” seems in a lot of people's minds, they were thinking like pipelines, high tension lines, right-of-ways, and things like that. We have to make very clear in our educational outreach between now and November that that's emphasized and explained appropriately for people. We have to show it to people because she really thinks we are going to have to go out and campaign just like we did last time. Anyone that wants to volunteer to put materials together, let her know. If anyone has any suggestions, let her know. The Township will not pay to mail out the brochures. They formed a group of citizens

called a Pack and they did it entirely out of the Township. If you know of anyone who would like to be involved with the Pack, let her know and maybe we can get that done also. They can use our recommendations as far as the literature. She is trying to get the Saucon Creek Watershed to run that process. Mr. Guerra said over the last two years, with the economic changes, he really thinks the focus to have people vote "yes" is going to have to be economic based. There's no other ands, ifs, or buts, about it. Mrs. Yerger said the one thing she needs to do is get the document back from the Saucon Valley Watershed about the economic benefits of open space and preserving it. It was just a three pager, real quick and clean, with bullet paragraphs. She will print another one and make sure those copies are here for the EAC to review at next meeting.

Mr. McCormick said what do you think the sentiment is about Phoebe as that seems to be something people feel strongly about. Mrs. Yerger said Phoebe was not recommended by the Planning Commission. Mr. McCormick said what about the people in the Township? Mrs. Yerger said the word on the street, as far as she knows, and has been told at a public meeting is that they have some kind of online petition that there were about 1,800 signatures on it. She has not personally seen it.

Mr. McCormick said Mr. Guerra's point is a good one. The times are a little bit different now politically for tax increases so you have to cast it showing this is a net financial positive for the Township. Locally, sentiment in this town right now is anti-big development and we should use that to our advantage. He would say the literature should say, you should vote on referendum 123 because it saves us, saves stress on the schools, and it will help stem unreasonable development in our Township. If we said, please, please vote yes, I know it will cost you money out of your pocket, but it saves the trees, he's not sure people will vote on that. If we say, it will save you money in property taxes because it will stop putting further pressure on our already over-taxed schools and it will make it more difficult for developers to come in and develop and destroy the nature of our rural community. That passes if you make that point.

Mr. Guerra said if there's less land to purchase, that makes the current properties more valuable. Mrs. Yerger said that's true. The other thing, there's numbers in this document that it's been proven time and time again. If you have open space or park land near, close to, or intertwined with your community, your real estate values increase substantially and will maintain being high. Mr. Guerra said it's a simple supply and demand. Mrs. Yerger said beyond the supply and demand, there's the aesthetics and undefined that this is great, scenic vistas, the whole bit. Mr. Beardsley said people want to live near permanent open space and parks. Mr. McCormick said Bucks County has a national reputation for having all this open space and that adds to the appeal of the residents. Mrs. Yerger said their County passes enormous bonds. There is \$37 million at a pop. They have the resources and the structure in place to do this. They do it very well. This is their second bond they passed close to \$75 million between the two bonds in like eight years for open space and agricultural preservation. They just do it. Mr. McCormick said if the Saucon Creek Watershed does take the labor of marketing on the referendum, that's the kind of things they would do and talk about? Mrs. Yerger said yes.

Mr. Germanoski said this flyer was in support of the first referendum, so now people who lived through this are going to wonder what did you do over the last few years? If there is some summary numbers on how many acres that have been preserved, that would be important to add here and people would see it's important that there have been realized benefits rather than wonder how successful has this program been. Mrs. Yerger said that's number one on her list because we also the Township, without being political, because it's public monies, needs to do a press release and say this is what we've done, this is where it is and then it can be emphasized again. The Township does need to account to the residents where the monies have been spent and how many acres have been preserved. Mr. Germanoski said it may also be helpful if we have properties like this pending or under consideration, that also shows the dynamic and people may think it's worth continuing this program. How many properties have been preserved? How many acres? The

number of parcels? The number of acres? How many are under consideration? It then just looks like we are forward thinking. Mrs. Yerger said she agrees.

After discussion, the EAC decided to change the sentence in (b) and have it read “The Township could purchase real property interests and/or conservation easements in undeveloped land in the Township in order to protect sensitive natural areas such as woodland, stream valley or other unique natural resources or habitats, and preserve and protect existing open spaces.”

**B. REVIEW OF PARK MAINTENANCE POLICY**

Mrs. Yerger said this came up again because Council has been working with an agronomist and there was some discussion about him wanting to use some treatments for the fields. It was then said, the EAC was very involved with the establishment of the maintenance policy, maybe it should come back here and we should take a look at what’s going on with the agronomist. She said that Mr. Guerra said he would be happy to give his opinion as this is what he does.

Mr. Guerra said he just briefly read this last night. He hasn’t looked at it in detail. He’s a certified horticulturist in the State of Pennsylvania, so he has some training in this and he’s been a landscaped contractor for fifteen years. He probably read, in the last ten years, at least 1,000 bid processes and projects so he’s seen every imaginable process and spec. He thinks this is going to have to be an ongoing process.

Mrs. Yerger said Mr. Guerra had expressed some concern. Mr. Guerra said agronomists are mostly just soil scientists. It looks like the Township is looking for more than just that, not only turf grass, but plants and recommendations on planting and maintenance policies and establishment, a whole landscape package. Mrs. Yerger said the one area they are worried about right now is the fields because it’s pending how to treat the fields. If there is any issues with the agronomist portion of it, we need to talk about those now, or next month at the latest, because this is his time period to be doing it. It would be helpful if we could convey that now.

Mr. Guerra said the first issue he sees is the fields are being over seeded with perennial ryegrass on page 2 of 10 “over seeding”. If the Township is looking for a more low maintenance grass for athletic fields, we should be using a tall fescue mix, probably 80% tall fescue and 20% ryegrass. This is a recommendation of 100% ryegrass. The biggest thing he saw with the chemical usages, there’s a tolerance of 20% weed coverage in here, which is an awful lot especially if you are doing a high managed chemical-based program. He doesn’t know where that percentage came from. It’s on the top of page 4 of 10. That’s not acceptable at all. Mrs. Yerger said this was probably because the OPM/IPM was 20% a reasonable amount if you are not using heavy chemicals? Mr. Guerra said that’s still not reasonable. Mrs. Yerger said you feel comfortable that it could be reduced even adhering to the OPM/IPM? Mr. Guerra said there are always cultural things and things to improve soil without chemicals. It’s a slower process and not as a quick result. Some of the things in here is a really good practice. It really depends on the citizen’s threshold of aesthetics and the amount of finance going into it. The Township wants something more environmentally sound, so the processes can be improved slowly every time so it wouldn’t be drastic.

Mrs. Yerger said one of the major considerations for these fields is we knew they were going to get very heavy usage and our concern was, at least for her on the Council level, they were trying to enable a fair amount of usage and then still maintain the fields. We don’t want these giant bare patches for the kids. We were looking for a policy, but then to be environmentally sensitive to boot. We were trying to balance all of that. If there are recommendations that Mr. Guerra can help us understand as far as still being environmental sensitive and adhering to the OPM/IPM, and building the fields so it can sustain usage as they get used a lot, we would welcome it.

Mr. Guerra said the turf grass seed is a big one. Perennial rye grass, a lot of people like to use it as it germinates very fast, and it recovers very fast, but it does not hold up well with drought and it also requires a lot of fertilization to stay healthy, which is not in the best interest of the Township. It's in the best interest of the contractor, but for the long term, it's not the best. The fescues will take longer to get established, and will use less water and less fertilizer and they are more pest-disease resistant. That's where your chemical usage comes into effect. There are different types of fescue. There's a tall fescue that is good for athletic fields, but if you are doping a naturalized area that gets mowed four times a year, the fine fescue would be your choice.

Mr. McCormick said is this time sensitive? Mrs. Yerger said she can find that out next week. She appreciates Mr. Guerra volunteering to do this. She said if Mr. Guerra has until next month, could he go over it and make notations and make recommendations? Mr. Guerra said he could do that.

Mr. Guerra said the other thing in here for the meadows, for the natural area, is a question mark on page 7 in the mowing. Mrs. Yerger said that's because they haven't technically been established yet. They are just mowing them periodically for now until there's an actual planting. Mr. Guerra said they should be mowed and now is the best time.

Mr. Johnson said how about mowing it in strips? Mow one strip this year and let one strip grow next year, and then vice versa. Mr. Guerra said he's in favor of mowing every year. Mrs. Yerger said it controls the invasives. Mr. Guerra said for three reasons – the invasives, it's a natural over seeding process as the mowers will knock off any seed heads into the spring when we get the freeze and thaw and it makes good soil contact; and the third reason is it just looks better, it's a cleaner look. It's healthier. Mr. Johnson said he thought they would leave taller plants for the animals to hide in. Mr. Guerra said most of the plants you want to grow in a meadow, only grow three to four feet in height anyway. If there's no woody material, the herbaceous plants do a lot better if they are mowed every year.

Mr. Guerra said he said he would be willing to look over the policy and bring it back in April. Mrs. Yerger said maybe Mr. Cahalan will be in contact with you if that's okay? Mr. Guerra said okay. Does someone oversee the work that gets done? Mrs. Yerger said she's not sure how it is broken out. There are guys that mow. Our Township staff is involved with some of it and some of the seeding has been done by another contractor, so there's been at least three or four contractors involved with this. Mr. Guerra said there are certain processes.

Mrs. Yerger said feel free to email Mr. Cahalan at [manager@lowersaucontownship.org](mailto:manager@lowersaucontownship.org). She's sure Mr. Cahalan would appreciate hearing from Mr. Guerra.

Mr. Johnson said what about mowing the natural areas? Is there a time during the year that you want to do it and want the plants to be high so the animals can raise their young in there? Mrs. Yerger said this is the time to cut. They are still basically underground. They won't start raising their young yet. Mr. Johnson said if you cut it now, there's nothing there. Mr. Guerra said that's what you want. The main reason is the seeds get knocked down for the desirable plants. You want that freeze and thaw to work that seed into the soil. Mr. Johnson said do you want to specify a particular time? Mr. Guerra said it should be early March or when the soil temperature hits 50 degrees. The water temperature of the ocean is pretty near the soil temperatures within a degree or two. Mrs. Yerger said anything Mr. Guerra can help us with, that would be great. It will be brought back in April.

## **VII. UPDATES/REPORTS**

### **A. NORTHAMPTON COUNTY E-CYCLING DATES (TWO MORE ADDED TO PREVIOUS BROCHURE)**

Mrs. Yerger asked Mr. Johnson if he talked to AERC? Mr. Johnson said no, but he did look into the new law that's been passed to do with recycling. The state of Pennsylvania passed a law in the later part of 2010 called "The Covered Device Recycling Act, Act 108 of 2010". That act is going to require that manufacturers of computers, televisions, and computer auxiliary things, have to make arrangements to collect and recycle the computers and TV's and the other things. The manufacturers have to do that and the retailers have to do that. Within a year, there won't be a need for us to have a recycling event. If we do it this year, then the people will have to pay. There's already six events going on in the County and if we wait until next year, people won't have to pay to get rid of their stuff. The way it's worded is they have to recycle a amount equivalent to the weight of the stuff they sell. So if they make a calculation as to how many pounds or tons of electronics Best Buy or HP will sell in PA, then they have to show they recycled that much during the year. They have to do that every year. How they are going to do it, he doesn't know. Mrs. Yerger said the biggest problem is we've gotten a lot of inquiries in the Township from residents. They want to know if we are doing it again, why aren't we doing it again? As a public service, that's why they were asking him to look into AERC for this year, until this act kicks in, and people become aware of it although they are going to have to pay. The only thing that is expensive is to get rid of the TV's. AERC is the one that the County uses. Mr. McCormick said staff doesn't have success just telling them to go to Easton in May? Mrs. Yerger said we kind of spoiled them. Now they have to drive all the way to Easton. She asked Mr. Johnson to give them a call and see if we can do one this year? Mr. Johnson said he will call them and they just might tell him to ask Mr. Dittmar to make the arrangements. Mrs. Yerger said that's fine. The EAC decided to have Mr. Johnson ask AERC about September of this year. Mrs. Yerger said if they don't want to wait that long, they can take them to Easton or wherever. Mr. Johnson said he talked to them a couple of years ago and they will want to talk to Mr. Cahalan and will want to organize things with the Township staff. Mrs. Yerger said that's fine. Mr. Johnson said he will call them and ask them if they are willing to do one and see what they say. He will give them Mr. Cahalan's contact information so they can get in touch with him.

**B. REGIONAL EAC MEEING**

Mrs. Yerger said she was contacted by Terry Kleintop from Plainfield Township. There is a whole group of EAC's, Upper and Lower Mt. Bethel, Plainfield Township, Bushkill, Williams, we all have EAC's. They asked if our EAC would be interested in attending a regional EAC meeting to address the County open space issue. They passed a bond saying they were going to have x millions of dollars available for Township's to use for open space and agricultural preservation and the County kept pulling back from that and not allocating the funding. That will be the main topic, but here may be other topics where we can join together. It would take place in Plainfield Township. There are two dates which are March 22 and March 29. The one on March 22 would be at 6:00 PM and the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting would be at 7:00 PM. There are other issues that will come out at the meeting. One is they have been fooling around with the Ag Preservation Board in Northampton County. They have not reappointed people, and consequently, there is not enough people on the Ag Preservation Board to form a quorum. They are not holding any meetings. They are looking for some way that the EAC's can ban together and petition the County. They are looking at strength and numbers because one or two people who have cried out and said this is not the way to do this have been blightfully ignored by some of our County Council people, a few in particular. That's what they are looking for. It's a real issue and they are afraid it's going to completely destroy our ag preservation program at the County level if people don't stand up. The EAC decided to go on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and carpool together. She will tell Terry Kleintop they will attend on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT**

Mrs. Yerger said Diane is going to give Terry Boos a call tomorrow to get us a date for the native plant sale at the SV Farmer's Market.

**IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Beardsley said he wants to go back to the Open Space Committee. We had talked about going to see the other property that Art Morgan had adjacent to the Dravec property. The issue was we don't know where it was and the suggestion was made that the engineers that surveyed Dravec would be able to identify this property and one of them from Hanover would take them out there and show them where the property was. Nothing ever happened with that. Mrs. Yerger said she will bring that up at the March 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and get them an answer on that. Maybe we can make arrangements when they are here and go up and meet you and show you. Mr. Johnson said they can only show them the corner of the Dravec property and they have to assume their land is right next door. As far as the other four corners of the property, they don't know where they are. The second one would be on the line somewhere to the east of it. They can't actually show us the property. They can show us where their pins are and we have to assume where the other property is. Mrs. Yerger said it's like walking any property. You don't see all the pins. Mr. Johnson said you have to ask them to show them where the pins are on the Dravec property, not where that property is because they don't know anything about that property. That would be the southwest corner of the Dravec property. Mrs. Yerger said she can do that.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Ms. Ray moved for adjournment. The time was 8:16 p.m.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Maxfield – Absent)

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Sandra Yerger, Chair

**Next EAC Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2011**