

I. **OPENING**

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:02 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. **OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

A. **PROPERTY UPDATES**

1. **UPDATE ON PROPERTY NO. 2015-1**

Mr. Beardsley said they scored property No. 2015-1, but they need more information. The parcel is about 6.7 acres which is in Lower Saucon. The Sub-Committee needs to know what the property owner is trying to do. As far as the conservation easement, if he's going to build a house on there, then there's not much in it to preserve. If he's looking to sell the property outright, then we might be interested in that. They have to talk to him some more.

Mrs. Yerger said we are going to be moving on to property No.2015-2. It was a property we had looked at before. Mr. Beardsley asked for the score sheet as they had scored it before. The property splits Lower Saucon and Springfield, so it's almost 15 acres.

Mr. Johnson questioned the bog turtle on the Martin Lane's property and Mrs. Yerger said she never heard back from Fish & Boat. The way endangered species or habitat is within from a half mile to a mile radius, so it doesn't necessary mean it's on that spot. They do a broad sweep when they send those notifications. Mr. Maxfield said whenever you see a bog turtle survey, it's when a property is in danger of being developed. Mrs. Yerger said she also sent it to the Mid-Atlantic and they are the scientists that go out and do the identifying. She said her organization does an amphibian rescue in the Quakertown swamp. The amphibians move now, the first warm Spring rain after winter. They figure by Saturday they may be able to do it and she will talk to them.

Mr. Germanoski said his take on this was the property owner hadn't made a decision, he was keeping his options open, pursuing the possibility of building a house, in which case it would be a conservation easement which doesn't make sense to us then. He's still open to the possibility of an outright sale. Mrs. Yerger said it would be fee simple.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **DISCUSSION ON SPRING RECYCLING EVENT**

Ms. Palik said she spoke to Johnny Johnson from FreeCycle and he would do an event at the Township, would charge for TV's, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and take all small appliances. She also spoke to Kenn Zinnis from Northampton County to see if he could provide a trailer for collection of refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers like Mr. Dittmar used to do. After speaking to Mr. Zinis, he said Northampton County is having an E-Cycling event at Steel Stacks on April 18th from 9am to 1pm. There is a list of acceptable and unacceptable items. They do not collect small appliances. He also said there is a Household Hazardous event on May 30th at Northampton Community College from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm where they will be collecting various appliances. He felt there was no need to have a spring recycling event at the Township with these two events being held. Johnny Johnson said since both of these events would not take items like small appliances, he could drop off a container here at the Township or in Hellertown and then come and empty it. A lot of Townships are doing that for their residents.. Terry will talk to the Hellertown Borough

Manager. Ms. Stanlick said they do a sale at Lehigh University on the South Side if you want to get rid of appliances that work. She will bring back more information at the next meeting.

2. ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP IN APRIL OR MAY

The EAC will meet at Old Mill Road on Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 am for their clean-up. Ms. Palik said March 18th at the Council meeting, they will be giving out resolutions for the adopt-a-road groups. Allan Johnson said he would be there to accept the resolution.

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. **HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE EVENT – MAY 30 & OCTOBER 10, 2015 AT NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE** - Mrs. Yerger said keep these date in mind, they do this every year.

B. PENNEAST PIPELINE UPDATE

Mr. Dru Germanoski said the people who spoke against the pipeline were mostly landowners that were going to be affected, and children even provided testimony. There were people there who would benefit from the installation of the pipeline for jobs and getting the energy to the markets. He testified that they really want to sell us the resource than provide it. People raised the issue and question if this would be bringing it to foreign markets. It went back and forth that way. FERC listened to all the testimony and people submitted written testimony. There was nothing resolved. He spoke a bit about hazards, riparian systems and groundwater surface water. Some people focused on the dangers of the pipeline.

Mr. Maxfield said Council has been taking a position against the pipeline and we did a resolution stating our position and employed our Environmental Attorney, Charles Elliott to compile information and he did an excellent job of putting together information we can submit to FERC and finding holes in their whole argument. His opinion is if we have to do this, we'll learn to work with the people, but if we don't have to do it, let's not do it. Let's judge it on accurate information. Mr. Elliott found out it was a 36" line which is a bigger line than anything else in the Township. The numbers they give of homes that can be served by this line was more homes than exists in the entire state of NJ. They are proposing a 24" offshoot and we are wondering who that is going to serve. Then it came out they are thinking extending that line further south which would explain why they want the 24" line. The review company, TetraTek is supposed to be an independent review company for this project and it turns out they have a vested interest in shale gas and pipelines, so Attorney Elliott pointed out there's a conflict of interest here. Mr. Germanoski said the conflict of interest is coming up at other places also.

Mrs. Yerger asked if there was any mention of the export depot that is being tremendously expanded in Maryland where a lot of the pipelines coming through NJ are headed for in MD? Mr. Germanoski said that because the PennEast pipeline would be bringing the gas closer to the gas liquification plant and the shipping terminals, people were speculating that the PennEast line could easily be linked to gas lines that would transfer the gas to the liquification plant, but it was just speculation. Mrs. Yerger said the expansion is happening as we speak. It's capacity is being expanded to accepting more lines. One of the things they pointed out is where they can't actually say they are targeting preserved properties, it just happens to be that 50% of the properties being affected by the pipeline in PA are preserved properties right now. Mr. Maxfield said the condemnation process makes that wonderful because you can condemn a preserved property.

Mr. Hijazi asked if our Township was coordinating efforts with other opposing Townships? Mr. Maxfield said that came up at the last Council meeting and there was a question about using Attorney Elliott's information and disseminating it to someone like Williams Township, at a cost, as taxpayers paid for his work. There's also Townships that have done resolutions and that list is

growing and we're all part of that list. Mr. Hijazi said other Townships where they are more impacted, did they pass resolutions? Mr. Maxfield said some did. He thinks Williams Township did not for their own reasons. Mr. Hijazi said the more coordination between municipalities bonding together; it would have more impact than just one Township. Mrs. Yerger said oppositions that happened in NJ happened because the Counties joined in opposition which helped make some decisions. Mr. Maxfield said Williams Township isn't doing a resolution because of a threat of litigation. We didn't take that into consideration. Mr. Carocci said it's just a resolution, it's not binding. He asked what is the timeline for the final route? Mr. Maxfield said he's not sure but they told us their route will be solidified in May. They did not want to use the condemnation process, but if they have to, they will. He doesn't know if it's going to be that smooth of a sell for PennEast. Mrs. Yerger said the condemnation process would not be smart to do. Mr. Maxfield said they just do it if FERC says it's okay, they got the Federal blessing.

Mr. Johnson expressed his concerns of them drilling under the Lehigh River. Mrs. Yerger said they are drilling under the Delaware River also. Mr. Hijazi said this isn't the first time they have ever done that. The technology of engineering is out there. They put in pipes of thousands of feet under the ocean, they go under tunnels. Mr. Germanoski said they have experience at drilling under rivers, as they have done it many times before. It's the same as drilling a well for natural gas and going through aquifers. Mr. Maxfield said they are telling us that they have all this handled and they know what they are doing. Someone really has to look at the processes they are using. You go through carbonate, you got pipes. Mrs. Yerger said is there anything we feel we want to say or do. Mr. Hijazi said he suggests reaching out to other municipalities by asking Jack and/or our Council to join in a cooperative opposition to the pipeline. Mr. Johnson talked about the bird sanctuary that may be in the way of the pipeline. Mr. Maxfield said DCNR has been keeping their eye on that in trying to preserve it.

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved to recommend to Council that we reach out to other municipalities, and possibly Counties, to coordinate the effort in response to the PennEast pipeline plans.
SECOND BY: Mr. Germanoski
ROLL CALL: 6-0 (Ms. Laura Ray – Absent)

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2015 MINUTES

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for approval of the January 13, 2015 minutes.
SECOND BY: Mr. Beardsley
ROLL CALL: 6-0 (Ms. Laura Ray – Absent)

VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mrs. Yerger had a request for membership from PA Environmental Council who used to be the overseeing organization for EAC's. They no longer do that as they passed that responsibility over to PALTA. The EAC decided not to become a member as they don't run the EAC's anymore.

Mrs. Yerger said there is an LMIP meeting tomorrow night at Se-Wy-Co Fire Company for municipal officials regarding the IESI Southeast Expansion. Since the EAC has municipal officials, anyone from the EAC could attend. There will be no testimony from residents.

VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT

Mr. Boos said Water Street Park is being reconfigured. Work is supposed to begin in April. It's a 120 day contract so they should be finished at the end of August. The Borough decided to have the Farmer's Market at the Hellertown Library in the vacant grass lot from May 3rd to the day before Thanksgiving.

IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Germanoski asked about a previous motion at the last meeting on locating small streams and tributaries. He has some information from the LVPC and it's called Northampton Hydro. When we

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compare our drainage network from the Northampton County hydro to existing GIS coverage, it's remarkable how the drainage density increased by an order of magnitude. You see a lot of little tributaries. He can get that data for us and see how that meets our needs as a starting point. It will take multiple students if we do work on this, but it doesn't mean we'd have to do it all in a six-month period. We could build upon it year-by-year, semester-by-semester. He'll revisit this and come back to the EAC with suggestions. Mr. Maxfield said some of the things that generated this whole thing was we thought that the East Branch headed out Easton Lower Saucon Road junction, but actually the main tributary goes up the hill and ends up at Bergstresser Road. That means that every section we looked at had no name. It's not officially the East Branch. There are some bigger tributaries.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 8:00 P.M.

SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield

ROLL CALL: 6-0 (Ms. Laura Ray – Absent)

Sandra Yerger, Chair