

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:02 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

ROLL CALL: Members: Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Laura Ray, Ted Beardsley, Dru Germanoski (arrived at 7:10 pm); Hazem Hijazi; Absent: Tom Maxfield & Alan Johnson; **Associate Members:** Thomas Carocci, Glenn Kaye (arrived at 7:38 pm) & David Jauregui. Absent: Michael Boyle and Sarah Stanlick; **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos **Jr. Council Member:** Absent - Kyle Bambu

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: The EAC did not meet in Executive Session.

II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE

A. PROPERTY UPDATES – No updates

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION ON WOODLAND HILLS PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Valerie Liggett from Boucher & James was present to go over the Woodland Hills Management plan. She said they did a standard management plan based on their conversations with the EAC and board members on what you were looking to do at the site as far as preserving it and making sure it stays in its natural state and improve storm water conditions downstream. The report starts off talking about the history and natural resources, the current conditions and how the golf course ecology is affected. It talks about wetlands, wildlife, hydrology, and then the recommendations which she reviewed with the EAC.

Mrs. Yerger said when it rains, at the intersection of Lower Saucon Road and Easton Road, it's under water as well as the residents are so we know this is one of the main contributing factors. This is a way we can mitigate what happens downstream and we know this needs to be done.

Mr. Hijazi asked if there was any maintenance being done? Ms. Liggett said her understanding is the path is being mowed which is the only maintenance being done right now. (Dru joined the meeting at 7:10 pm). Mrs. Yerger said in the plan, they utilized Dru's storm water study he did.

Mr. Germanoski said he likes the idea of linking this to Lutz-Franklin as there are wetlands over there. Mrs. Yerger said there are some challenges there and it's where one of the tributary's start. Because the previous golf course owner had it on the market for a housing development, and that didn't happen, by Township regulations he had to mow it and there are quite a few natives coming up naturally.

Mr. Germanoski said regarding horseback riding, motorized vehicles and bicycle, it should be kept as non-permitted activities. Mrs. Yerger agreed because of all the wet areas there. You take motorized vehicles or horses through there, it will be very tough on the trail and will create gulleys.

Mrs. Yerger asked if Boucher & James has a list of the new tree vitalized guidelines where they have to be PA natives now? Ms. Liggett said the list she's included is what was used in reports for LST before. If you want them to just have PA natives, they can do that, but then you get in the debate of how long has it been native. Mrs. Yerger said we can get supplemental funding from DCNR as they were very happy to have passive recreation and they would grant money as we go through this process and implement whatever parts of the plan we want. It's all the right criteria for what they are seeking to fund.

Mr. Germanoski said there was no mention of water about being groundwater recharge area. It's very common in these hills. Ms. Liggett said she didn't specifically use the words groundwater recharge. Mr. Germanoski said it helps to indicate that it plays an important role for the water quality. Ms. Liggett said she can add that to the report.

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MOTION BY: Mr. Germanoski moved that the EAC recommends to Council to adopt the Woodland Hills Preserve Management Plan, adding the language on page 4 under Saucon Creek Watershed Context after the first sentence “The site is within an important groundwater recharge area, where land preservation and careful limitations on land use are essential for maintaining high water quality”.

SECOND BY: Mr. Hijazi

Ms. Ray said she thinks it's a shame we can't consider putting in a horse trail on a property this large. She considers that a passive activity and there are not any other opportunities on any other properties the Township owns. Mrs. Yerger said no matter what trail you go on there are very wet areas and they are going to chew it up badly. Ms. Liggett said the horse manure often spreads seeds. Ms. Ray said birds do that too. Ms. Liggett said the goal of the property was to be a wildlife preserve. Mr. Germanoski said he would also like to see a place for horseback riding, but on this property it would be a drainage problem.

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

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. OPEN SPACE REFERENDUM – DISCUSSION OF RE-ENACTMENT OF EIT TAX FOR OPEN SPACE

Mrs. Yerger said we have to put the referendum question back on the ballot so we can have it voted on one way or the other because of the state law. It needs to be on by the November election and the wording has to be in to the County by May. (Glenn Kaye arrived at 7:38 pm). We'll have to make a draft and have it reviewed by Attorney Treadwell.

Mr. Carocci said we need some questions answered before the next meeting as that's what we have to look at. How much was generated in the Open Space fund since 2011? How much is collected each year in the fund? How much have we used out of the fund? What was the cost of improvements/maintenance on our open space lands last year? The EAC agreed that we need the definition of maintenance and improvements from our attorney also.

Mr. Germanoski said he doesn't know why we can't suggest up to 10% so the money is not overspent and what the improvements could be. He's not for using these funds for parking lots or infrastructure, but for environmental improvements. Mrs. Yerger said we don't have to use 25%.

Mr. Hijazi said once something is recommended, he's not sure of the allocation, and he'd like it to be used in a certain way, but who will be controlling that? We need to look at the details. Mr. Carocci said we shouldn't be any more detailed than what is in the state law. The Township is doing maintenance now with actual budgetary money, not the open space funds.

Mr. Gene Boyer said 25% is a lot of money as that's \$1 million for improvements/maintenance. Mrs. Yerger said the other component is this, as if the ballfields, the trailhead, it's purchased with open space money, but then is our maintenance fund want to go towards keeping those fields maintained. Those are the type of things that we may want to have included.

Mr. Beardsley said that's not what our voters approved last time. Mrs. Yerger will speak to Attorney Treadwell about the open space referendum wording on the ballot before the next EAC meeting so we can finalize and recommend it to Council and the definition of maintenance/improvements.

Mr. Carocci wants to make sure we have enough money in the fund if property comes up that we want to purchase and would see a draft from Attorney Treadwell for the next meeting, with language both ways, with and without the percentage.

B. CONCERNS OF RADON IN DRINKING WATER – DRU GERMANOSKI & SARAH STANLICK

Mr. Germanoski said he and Sarah prepared the flyer for the EAC and for the newsletter. The EAC said they did a great job and asked to add in more about the radon in the drinking water as that's what Mr. Johnson was concerned about, so Mr. Germanoski will get that change made. Mr. Boos said you can also have radon in water from a supply line, not only wells.

MOTION BY: Mr. Germanoski moved for approval of the flyer, adding a paragraph about radon in drinking water and send it to Diane by April 22nd.

SECOND BY: Mr. Beardsley

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

C. LEHIGH VALLEY RETURN ON ENVIRONMENT – APRIL 22, 2016 @ DESALES UNIVERSITY

This type of assessment has been done on open space time and time again. This one takes the value of open space, crunches it down to dollar numbers with respect to the Lehigh Valley. Mrs. Yerger said if anyone wants to attend this at DeSales University, please let Diane know.

D. PICK DATE FOR ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP

The EAC picked May 7 for their clean-up, meeting at the bridge at 9:00 am. Terry Boos will pick up the supplies. (Dru Germanoski left the meeting at 8:23 pm)

E. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Boos said the Farmers Market will be opening May 1, 2016 at Water Street Park at 9:00 am.

VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS - None

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 8, 2016 MINUTES

MOTION BY: Mr. Beardsley moved for approval of the March 8, 2016 minutes, with correction.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

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

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – Mr. Beardsley said Diane sent an email regarding the survey of the Dravec property and it doesn't jive with what the lots looked like, he doesn't know if the survey was one of the lots or it incorporates all the lots. Mr. Hijazi said send the email back to Diane and she can ask Chris Garges.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 8:28 p.m.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Absent – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Germanoski & Mr. Maxfield)

Sandra Yerger, Chair