

**I. OPENING**

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.
- B. ROLL CALL:**  
**Members:** Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Allan Johnson, Ted Beardsley, Hazem Hijazi. Absent: Tom Maxfield, Vice-Chairman; Laura Ray and Dru Germanoski. **Associate Members:** Thomas Carocci, Sarah Stanlick; Michael Boyle. Absent: Glenn Kaye. **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** – None

**II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**A. PROPERTY UPDATES**

**1. REPORT ON PROPERTY INSPECTION – PROPERTY NO. 2014-2**

Mr. Beardsley said the Sub-Committee scored property No. 2014-2 on April 26<sup>th</sup>. They evaluated it and it scored 24 out of 30 and they thought 24 points was plenty to recommend it to Council to pursue.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Beardsley moved for a recommendation to forward the report on property inspection for Property No. 2014-2 on to Council for their review.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Germanoski, Ms. Ray – Absent)

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ACT 115 OF 2013**

Mrs. Yerger said at last month's meeting there was discussion about Act 115 that talked about using some of the EIT money that we use for open space acquisition and the EAC members wanted to see the actual referendum question. She thought it was kind of clear. It's acquisition, pretty much what it says, not maintenance. That's the way our question was posed.

Mr. Beardsley said unless we're going to go back to another referendum to change it, it should be for acquisition only. If anyone thinks it's a good idea to go back and change it, any money left in the open space fund should be used for the property for recreational purposes, but not maintenance. That should be an ongoing responsibility from the General Fund. Mr. Carocci said he agrees with Mr. Beardsley. The Act out of Harrisburg just gives the Townships legal protection to take some of that money and use it for maintenance as the referendum doesn't say that at all. He thinks there will be lawsuits from voters if they try to use that money for maintenance. He doesn't think it's good government as that's not what the voter's voted for. If they want to put a referendum on that puts maintenance on, then let the voters vote for that. It's 25% now, what if they pass another bill that says you can use 50%, where does it end. Mr. Beardsley said it says the money can only be used for properties that were purchased with open space, so properties like the park right back here that weren't purchased with open space funds, you couldn't use the money for maintenance anyway.

Mr. Johnson said we should see what Act 115 looks like. Mrs. Yerger said this is our referendum question. Act 115 was a new law that was passed by the State. It said it was one of the guiding principles which allowed this question to be put on the ballot. At the last meeting, most of the members couldn't remember what the referendum specially asked the voters for, so we have the actual referendum question in the packet. The main difference is our question is predominantly to use those funds for acquisition. That's what the voters voted on. Act 115 is saying that if Townships so choose, they can use it for other purposes with open space. Mr. Johnson said this new law gives us the opportunity to improve the property. We need to improve some of the properties. Mrs. Yerger said that's not the way our question was proposed. We can propose it to not use it for maintenance is we so choose. We don't have to do anything.

Mr. Hijazi said it's not like you can't make improvements, it's where the source of the funding is coming from. The township can make any improvements they deem is needed. Mrs. Yerger said we don't want to use any open space money for improvements until we take it back to the voters or do a whole new referendum in two years. Mr. Carocci said the voters didn't vote for the use of funds for maintenance. If they would have, there would be no need for this act from Harrisburg and 25% seems like a lot of money. Mr. Hijazi said the more you spend out of that pool for maintenance issues, the less you have to buy properties. Mrs. Yerger said if we would recommend this, it won't come back to us how that money's going to be spent. It can then be Parks & Recs purview along with Township Council purview. This could also include taxes that the Township has to pay, it doesn't necessarily have to be capital improvements. She's of the opinion, that's not the way the question was posed to our voters. Most people who went into that voting booth voted for acquisition, not to be maintained or improved.

Mr. Boyle asked what other properties are available to purchase? Mrs. Yerger said we have two in the queue which is over 300 acres, so that will take a significant portion should they be successful. Mr. Boyle said if we bought up about 80% land which is available, he'd feel a little better to free up some money. Mr. Carocci said that can be done in the future, it's too early to make that decision now. If people find out you took 25% of it and it's not used for acquisition, that's not a good way to build credibility. If you want to do it after 2016, then do it. It's just a matter of good government. Mr. Hijazi said when you open up the option to use it for more than just acquisition, and then over time, there are many examples that they use it for other things. Mr. Carocci said if this is what the voters voted on, Harrisburg wouldn't have to pass that act.

After more discussion, the EAC agreed that the use of the open space money be used for acquisition only of the property and put the question of maintenance on the ballot in 2016.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to recommend to Council that the use of open space money be used only for the acquisition of properties and not for maintenance and that the question of maintenance be put on the ballot in 2016.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley
- ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Germanoski, Ms. Ray – Absent)

**B. TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE MAP**

Mrs. Yerger said you saw the Township open Space map. Last time she made the request that our parks be put on the map. She had hoped that there would be two different colors and the two maps merged. Some of our parks have very large significant areas; she would like to see the connection with some of the eased properties and acquired properties in connection to where our park lands currently are. Make them very distinct; one is a park, one is open space. For example, the Savitske property and Polk Valley Park are right next door to each other. Mr. Beardsley said it's not on either map. Mrs. Yerger said she'd also like to have Hellertown's reservoir on the combined map, their watershed areas put on, and golf courses can stay off. Mr. Beardsley said he thinks the map should be parks and open space. Mrs. Yerger said for our purposes for what we acquired, the open space map works fine, but she would like to see an open space map with those called out separately. The reservoir and watershed could be yellow; the parks in blue; and then the open space in green, that would be perfect, then we have a handle on some of the potential connectivity and what might be a missing gap. We see that in a lot of Township's when they pull together open space plans. Mr. Johnson said that's what we asked for last month and it wasn't done. Mrs. Yerger said we redefined it and has been a little more definitive. This map can be brought back to the next EAC meeting so they can take a look at it.

- MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved to recommend to the Township to please coordinate the two maps (the open space map and map of Township parks) into one map for the EAC's use that records the open space in green, the park lands in blue, and another color with the Township's municipal owned areas like the Hellertown Reservoir and watershed protection area.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson
- ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Germanoski, Ms. Ray – Absent)

**Environmental Advisory Council**

**May 13, 2014**

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

- A. **ROTH FARMS ESTATES – MINOR #MIN 01-14 – 819 TEXAS ROAD** – The subject plans were reviewed. They had no comment as there are no environmental impacts.

**V. UPDATES/REPORTS**

- A. **ADOPT-A-ROAD – SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014 @ 9:00 AM** – Mrs. Yerger said they had a successful clean-up for the adopt-a-road.
- B. **ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC – MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014 @ TOWN HALL STARTING AT 6:00 PM** – Mrs. Yerger said please RSVP to Diane if you are going to attend the volunteer picnic.
- C. **NATIVE PLANT SALE – SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2014 @ SV FARMER’S MARKET** - Mrs. Yerger said she and Terry Boos will be working on this.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 8, 2014 MINUTES**

Mrs. Yerger said Council has been doing just a shorter version of their minutes, and wanted to know if the EAC wanted to follow suit. Last meeting we had 18 pages of minutes. These would not be verbatim, but we have the tape available if anyone wants to go back and listen to them.

**MOTION BY:** Mrs. Yerger moved to recommend to Council that the EAC minutes be shortened like the Township Council’s meeting minutes and have the full minutes available on tape.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Germanoski, Ms. Ray – Absent)

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved for approval of the April 8, 2014 minutes.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Germanoski, Ms. Ray – Absent)

**VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS** – None

**VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE**

- Mr. Boos said the Water Street Park is going to be starting being under a new configuration plan. He will meet tomorrow to discuss the phasing of the work. The first phase is going to be along the Rail Trail section and the Farmer’s Market will probably be in its present location for the duration of the season. The first phase will be a basketball court, skating rink area. The volleyball courts will be realigned, the pavilion and playground in the same location and the area where the Farmer’s Market is currently will be planted with grass to sustain parking.

**IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mrs. Yerger said we received a letter from the PA Environmental Council and they would like us to be members. They are not working with EAC’s anymore. The EAC decided it’s no value anymore to contribute to them.
- Mr. Boos said the meadow project at the Reading Drive is finished.
- Ms. Stanlick and Mr. Johnson said they were at Zack’s presentation. Ms. Stanlick said it was very well attended and he gave a wonderful presentation. He will leave behind the ability for us to read the maps for the future. Mr. Johnson said Dru Germanoski and Zack are willing to arrange a talk here at the Township for us if we can all agree on a time. Ms. Palik said he could do it in the next two weeks and if the EAC does want to do this, this has to be advertised. Mr. Johnson said it doesn’t have to be a public meeting. Mr. Beardsley agreed with Mr. Johnson. Ms. Palik said she will get the Solicitor’s advice.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 7:55 P.M.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Mr. Maxfield, Mr. Germanoski, Ms. Ray – Absent)

---

Sandra Yerger, Chair