

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 7:01 P.M. at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Tom Maxfield, Vice-Chairman, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Members: Tom Maxfield, Vice-Chairman; Ted Beardsley, Hazem Hijazi, Laura Ray (arrived at 7:19 PM) and Allan Johnson, Absent: Dru Germanoski and Sandra Yerger; **Associate Members:** Absent: Glenn Kaye and Michael Boyle; **Planner:** None; **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos; **Jr. Council Member:** Vacant

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE

A. PROPERTY UPDATES

Mr. Beardsley said he talked to Terry Clemons today about the Richard Marson and Charlie Martin properties. With Charlie Martin, he said Terry Clemons wasn't returning his calls and he apparently agreed to the price finally. Mr. Beardsley called Terry and asked what was going on. Terry said he was trying to get the document together for Charlie to look over. Mr. Beardsley will call Charlie Martin and make sure that he lets Mr. Beardsley know when he gets something from Terry. If it doesn't happen, Mr. Beardsley will follow up on it.

Mr. Beardsley said with the Marson property, Terry was questioning whether the Township had approved him going ahead with that. Mr. Beardsley said he thought that's all been approved and getting ready to go since December, a long time ago. Terry is going to check into it. Mr. Beardsley assumes from what Terry said that he's going to check with Linc Treadwell and/or Jack Cahalan if we still want to go forward with this. Mr. Beardsley told Mr. Marson he made a suggestion here at the EAC that when the time comes for Marson to get his check, that we make some kind of ceremony out of it here at the Council meeting or at something so we can get some PR and mileage out of it. He's the first one that's really come forward on his own and wasn't interested in the money. He was interested in protecting the property.

Mr. Hijazi said action items are for Terry Clemons to be making the next steps and making some calls. Mr. Beardsley said for both Marson and Martin. Mr. Hijazi said do you need to check with him? Mr. Beardsley said he will follow up with both of the property owners and ask them to let him know when they hear from Terry and if a week and a half goes by and they haven't heard from him, Mr. Beardsley will call Terry again. Mr. Hijazi said point out that he personally doesn't like when you call somebody and they don't return your calls. Make sure if Terry is getting calls from one of the property owners, he does return the calls.

Mr. Maxfield said we discussed the Marson property in Executive Session. He doesn't know we ever came out and did anything action-wise on it. Mr. Cahalan said he's correct. Terry laid out a conceptual type of approach and he was going to discuss it with Mr. Marson. It involved the other two property owners. He will have to go back and check and see, but he thinks Mr. Maxfield is correct that it never went to any action. Mr. Maxfield said he wonders if we have to do something in order to make it go ahead and he wonders if Terry is waiting for an okay from Council. We discussed the point that the other property owners weren't interested in doing it. There were some questions in the Executive Session on who or why would we preserve that if it's not really developable. We came to the point that we were going to go for the Marson property, but he doesn't know if there was any action to take like tell Terry to go ahead and go for it.

Mr. Beardsley said from what he recalls, we decided to go for the Marson property without the other two because he had said he would put a restriction in the conservation easement so his driveway would not be any wider than it is now which actually protects the other two properties. For buying conservation on one, we tripled almost the acreage that's protected. It actually turns out to be an advantage to us. He had thought that Mr. Marson had accepted the appraised value and that he has hired an attorney to review the easement document, but he doesn't know if he ever got the easement document. Mr. Maxfield said we'll make sure that moves along. If you are going to talk to him and there are any problems, let Mr. Cahalan know and we'll get it going or Mr. Beardsley can call Terry Clemons himself.

B. DISCUSSION ON ACT 13 GRANT APPLICATION AND POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE FUNDING FOR ACQUISITION OF TOWNSEND PARCEL – POLK VALLEY ROAD

Mr. Maxfield said Mr. Cahalan is going to present us with the Act 13 grant application. Mr. Cahalan said this is something that Sandy Yerger brought to his attention. This parcel was brought to the EAC's attention previously. The property is listed by Coldwell Banker. It's out on Polk Valley Road across from the high school. It's an 8.82 acre parcel. It is almost adjacent to Polk Valle Park, maybe a parcel or two away from the park property. The "For Sale" sign has been out there for a couple of months. According to the realtor's website, they are asking \$600,000.00. It's listed at the County and the owner is the Townsend Family Limited Partnership. The address is Hillsboro Beach, Florida. It's vacant farmland. He gave you a map that Chris Garges prepared that shows it's predominantly Washington soils which are prime ag soils. It does fit into that type of category and that's why Sandy pointed that out. She also pointed out that there was a grant opportunity that would be available to the Township. It actually comes from the Marcellus Shale funding. Under Act 13 of 2012, that established the Marcellus Legacy funds and it allocates funds to the State. Those are available for municipalities, Councils of Governments, other institutions of higher education, watershed organizations and so on for the planning, acquisitions, development, rehabilitation and repair of greenways, recreation trails, open space, parks and beautification projects. It's call the Greenways Trail and Recreation program. The grants can be awarded up to \$250,000.00 and it looks like we qualify. We are going to be submitting an application by July 31, 2013 for the \$250,000.00 maximum. We'll prepare that here. One thing we do have to provide with the application is an appraisal. We would need to have that approved and completed in order to submit the copy of the appraisal with the application by the end of July. When Sandy brought it to his attention, she suggested that we couple these grants funds with open space fund if your Open Space Sub-Committee and EAC agrees that this property is prime for acquisition as an open space parcel. They are moving ahead on the application end of it. The Open Space Sub-Committee has to go through their guidelines and then make a recommendation that can be taken to Council for an appraisal. We would reach out to the realtor and see if it's still available and indicate to him our interest.

Mr. Maxfield asked how it fits into the closeness to the park. Do we know who the owners are of the other two parcels? Mr. Cahalan said those are Herman properties. That would be a pivotal acquisition if the future of the other ones were available.

Mr. Beardsley said has anyone indicated what the ultimate use of the property would be if we're buying it outright rather than a conservation easement? Mr. Cahalan said he hasn't discussed that. He was hoping Sandy was here tonight as she saw the potential. It would be open space, greenways, that type of thing. Mr. Beardsley said if this is prime agricultural soils and someone is using it that way currently, we could buy it and lease it back for agricultural purposes. We could make it a park if we buy the other two lots eventually. There's a couple of different things we could do, but we need to know at some point how we would use it. Mr. Cahalan said we are going to have to come up with some recommendations in the grant application. Mr. Beardsley said when we do a property inspection; it may point out some uses.

Mr. Maxfield said one of the things Sandy mentioned to him and it came from the idea of Allan and Laura Ray, and that was community gardens. We might be able to take a small section of that

and put it in a community garden and allow the rest of it to be leased. It looks like the farmer is doing all of those lots. Mr. Cahalan said there may even be water up there which there isn't at the park. Laura Ray arrived at 7:19 PM.

Mr. Hijazi asked if the school looked at this property? It looks like a good potential for any expansion of the school. Mr. Cahalan said he believes they had plans several years ago where they identified some properties and they were going to try to acquire by eminent domain and this may have been one of those properties. Mr. Maxfield said from a developability standpoint, it's level, it has access, it's relatively rectangular. You probably could fit a lot of lots in there on just that one tract. Mr. Hijazi said does the school have an interest in it? Mr. Cahalan said he hasn't heard any talk from them about acquiring any property. The bond issue they came up with, they held on from several years, and it was used recently for the stadium and the athletic fields. He doesn't think there's been any discussion. Mr. Maxfield said these lots were part of their master plan they had at one time, but there's a master plan and money to purchase things and they are probably short on one and over-expansive on the other. We can have the Open Space Sub-Committee go out there and look at the lot and get some other ideas. He does like the idea of renting it back to the farmer, but it's level and we could use it for almost anything at all. You can pass this by Parks & Recreation for suggestion. Mr. Cahalan said he'll bring that up at the next Parks & Recreation meeting. Mr. Beardsley said they will go out and look at the lot. Mr. Maxfield said they can give us a report at the next meeting.

Mr. Hijazi asked if anyone approached them? Mr. Cahalan said no one has spoken to the realtor, but he will give him a call tomorrow and let him know we are looking at it. Mr. Hijazi said they may have the sign up while they are negotiating and have someone at the final stages of an agreement.

III. NEW BUSINESS – None

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. REPORT ON ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP HELD ON APRIL 20, 2013

Mr. Maxfield said a couple of the EAC members were there. Mr. Boos said they got five bags of garbage. There were only three of them so they didn't do any separating the recyclables this time. It took them about an hour and a half. It went well. He said the EAC members, Allan Johnson and Laura Ray, have been at these road clean-ups relatively consistently and he's been there as well as his friend Ray. Ray and Terry are not even from the Township, but they are more than happy to contribute. He thinks the members of this particular committee need to put a little more effort into this particular project to do the road clean-ups twice a year. Ms. Ray said it is an easy one. The road isn't that bad. Countryside Lane was a mess as she did that the week before. Mr. Beardsley said someone had mentioned that Terry spends a lot of time and puts a lot of effort into Lower Saucon Township and it is appreciated. Terry said he knows that. Ms. Ray said it's good Terry can pick up the adopt-a-road supplies as she can't as she doesn't work close by. Terry said they don't mind doing it because as far as he's concerned, they are the same municipality. It's just that they would like to see some effort from the other committee members from the EAC.

B. REPORT ON RECYCLING EVENT WITH FREECYCLE HELD ON APRIL 27, 2013

Mr. Hijazi said his understanding was the event was very successful. Looking at the tonnage collected, it was a good volume. The number of cars may have been a little less than last year, but the total weight was way up. Ms. Ray said none of the signs were out to tell you where to pull in. She noticed that as soon as she pulled up. Mr. Hijazi said at some point, traffic was coming in all at the same time and it backed up on the road. After that, it eased up.

Mr. Cahalan said there were a couple of things that fell through the cracks from discussions at your meeting and the actual event. Diane is going to work on a check list for the next event. He'd recommend someone on the EAC who can work directly with Diane on the event. In some cases, Diane was assuming the EAC members were going to be doing some things and you were assuming that the P/W people were going to be doing some things. The signs were at P/W and they will be out for the next event.

Mr. Hijazi said the back-up was about a half an hour. Mr. Johnson said that causes a real hazard. People who want to use the road and don't want to sit in traffic have to go into the other lane of traffic. That's definitely a possible accident. It's a bad situation and we shouldn't let it happen again. The Township could even be liable if there was an accident.

Mr. Maxfield said we could make a pattern inside the parking lot. Mr. Cahalan said you did suggest that, but that's one of the things that fell through the cracks. You talked about bringing them in on the other side and stacking the cars. That will be done the next time. Mr. Maxfield said they got an email where they needed only one or two to direct traffic. Mr. Beardsley said he was told not to lift anything.

Mr. Hijazi said they had enough people there for lifting. Diane said Mr. Cahalan didn't want any volunteers lifting anything. Mr. Cahalan said they had five people from FreeCycle plus two people from P/W. The labor was not a problem. Mr. Maxfield said now we know what we're in for next time. Mr. Beardsley said is everyone happy the way the company performed?

Mr. Cahalan said yes, he thinks it went smoothly. They were concerned, but Johnny Johnson organized it pretty well. It came off except for a couple of glitches. Mr. Johnson said the P/W guys worked the closest with FreeCycle, so you should get their opinion. Mr. Cahalan said they thought it went well. The only thing he does remember is Mr. Dittmar saying to him that he didn't know if we needed these events in the future with all the County events. That was his opinion. Diane said they have two places now that you can drop things off in Easton and Allentown. Mr. Maxfield said it's the convenience of it being in your neighborhood and making a short trip over seems to have worked. Mr. Beardsley said if it slacks off, we can reconsider. Mr. Johnson said if FreeCycle is willing, they must be making money. It's up to them if they want to do it again.

C. RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP AT SEIDERSVILLE HALL – SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013

Mr. Boos said the Watershed Association will be having a workshop from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm this coming Saturday. A kit is \$35.00 and if you want to buy one that's already made, it's \$50.00. Part of the money goes for rent for the offices and storage for the barrels, some pays for the parts and etc. for the rain barrels. It's a fundraiser for the Watershed Association. They don't make much per barrel. It's just enough to pay their facilities bill with a couple of dollars extra for whatever odds and ends they may run into.

D. DISCUSSION ON PARTICIPATION AND CARPOOLS FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT – NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE – SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2013 FROM 8:30 AM TO 2:00 PM

Mr. Maxfield said he has had a lot of people interested in this. It's twice a year. This is a good idea. He had someone come to him today and ask him if they could start putting something together and carpool and go out to the event. He doesn't know how they want us to participate. He offered his Eco Club to Mr. Dittmar, but he seemed a little leery about kids, so he thinks they are looking for adults. Diane said they need help with traffic and to check IDs to make sure they are Northampton County residents. He will supply good food, T-shirts and drinks. Mr. Maxfield said he may attend that one. He asked if anyone had any ideas on carpooling? Mr. Beardsley said if you know someone who's going there, you can give them your stuff, but the doesn't know who would organize that. Mr. Johnson said you should have two drivers in the vehicle as last year you had to wait over an hour last year. Mr. Dittmar wasn't happy with the people who were collecting the stuff. The new company he got he thinks will unload the cars a lot faster. Mr. Maxfield said

we probably wouldn't want to have a car with so many things in it that it would be dangerous, but it would be a good idea to help our your neighbors. Mr. Johnson said it's a good public event and something that's really needed, but needs to be handled better so it's not so inconvenient and hard to do. Mr. Maxfield said carpooling could be an individual effort too. The hours are 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. He would need volunteers for two hours. Mr. Johnson said last year there were cars all over the place and they were snaking in and out of the parking lots.

E. NATIVE PLANT GARDEN SALE – SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2013

Mr. Boos said this will be at the Saucon Valley Farmers Market from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. That is also the date for the Farmers Market Chili cook-off contest. He will not be pre-ordering the plants. He will make arrangements to go make some plant purchases of something that will be blooming or just about blooming at that time. In the past, there hasn't been much plant material in bloom. It was slightly difficult to have people buy their plants. The pricing has been a dollar or two more than what the cost that they bought the plants for. It's not a large mark-up. Mr. Maxfield said the past we bought things that would turn into trees and shrubs, and small plants. That variety was nice. Mr. Boos said they will have a nice selection of stock that will be interesting. Mr. Maxfield said people bring things from their gardens. Mr. Boos said some of their members will bring plants from their gardens.

F. ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PICNIC – MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2013 FROM 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

Mr. Maxfield said this is a good picnic and a good time for all. Diane will be there as she helps arrange the whole thing. If you haven't been there before, it's fun. Come out and meet your other volunteers on the other boards and have a good time.

G. NO NONSENSE NEUTERING CLINIC – AUGUST 31, 2013 – CANCELLED

Mr. Maxfield said last time we had Martha Kahan come to our meeting. The clinic got canceled as she couldn't find a vet for that time. We're going to have to start booking something next January, so put that on our long-range agenda and make sure we have one next year.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 9, 2013 MINUTES

Ms. Ray said on page 5, line 7, take the question mark out after feral cats. Mr. Maxfield said on page 3, line 12, the sentence, it should read "who goes outside and then comes back into the house". Page 3, line 20, the word space should be **spayed**.

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for approval of the April 9, 2013 minutes, with corrections.

SECOND BY: Mr. Hijazi

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Ms. Yerger and Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mr. Maxfield said every year they get a paper from the Pennsylvania Environment Council (PEC) asking for a donation again to remain members. Every year we do a \$50.00 basic non-profit local government category membership.

MOTION BY: Mr. Beardsley moved to recommend to Council that the EAC donate to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) a \$50.00 membership donation in the "Basic Non-Profit Local Government" category.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Mrs. Yerger & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT

➤ Mr. Boos said it's busy in Hellertown right now. The reconfiguration at Borough Hall is continuing. The cement walkways are in. The brick paving is being installed. That's progressing

along. It looks like at least the landscaping for the walkways is just about complete. He's not sure how much longer it will be until the landscaping, benching or signage for the kiosk will take.

- In Dimmick Park, the band shell has been erected and it looks pretty neat. It's a really interesting design.
- The Tumminello track had the first stage of planting completed which he mentioned a few of the plants. Mulch has been completed. The Borough has irrigation available for the maintenance of those plants.
- The north end of Route 412, most of the side streets as of today have been barricaded. He does know that they did have a meeting with PennDOT last Friday that adjustments are going to be made. He thinks those accommodations will be done by this week. He's not sure what the exact strategy will be. Mr. Maxfield said the newspaper said they were going to time the lights and they were adjusted last Friday afternoon. Mr. Boos said he knows a lot of the businesses on the north end of the Borough are seeing effects from the barricading of the side streets and they are not particularly happy. It's an 18-month project. It shouldn't be as onerous as it has been. Mr. Hijazi said it's really bad around rush hour and traffic was backing up on Route 78. Mr. Maxfield said yesterday he went through town and got all the green lights. This morning there were ten landfill trucks that were blocking up the traffic and they were all in a row. He thinks the trucks sit on Route 78 somewhere and then they all take off together. He used to go down Applebutter Road and count 17 semis. Today he counted about ten or eleven. You can even begin to recognize the trucks. He wishes they would space themselves out a little bit.

IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. Maxfield said to Mr. Johnson that he hasn't forgotten about the response on the fruit trees in the parks.
- Mr. Beardsley said on the email from Chris Garges and the owner of Helms Road, he wouldn't think the property owner would write the easement language, but Terry Clemons would be writing it. Mr. Maxfield said there is something on one of the emails that he read that they had some kind of simple conditions. Mr. Beardsley said if Terry Clemons is writing up an easement document, he'd have to take those things into consideration. The owner was represented by Art Swallow and Associates. Mr. Cahalan said he is the engineer. Mr. Maxfield said he would know how to draft out a conservation area on a map, which would be good. Mr. Maxfield said we'll keep an eye on this.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Mrs. Yerger & Mr. Germanoski – Absent)

Sandra Yerger, Chair