

I. OPENING

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 7:05 P.M. at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Tom Maxfield, Vice-Chairman, presiding.
- B. ROLL CALL:**
Members: Tom Maxfield, Vice-Chairman; Laura Ray; Dru Germanoski; Allan Johnson. Absent: Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Hazem Hijazi; Ted Beardsley; **Associate Members:** Michael Boyle. Absent: Thomas Carocci, Glenn Kaye and Sarah Stanlick. **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. MARSON PROPERTY – 2383 WASSERGASS ROAD

Mr. Johnson said Mr. Beardsley met with Rich Marson and it turned out the easement paper work that Mr. Beardsley had was different than what Rich Marson had, so they couldn't get questions that Rich Marson wanted answered by our lawyer, Terry Clemons. They are planning to get together when they have matching documentation.

2. LAURA BAIRD UPDATE ON PROPERTY NO. 2014-2

Mr. Johnson said Laura Baird met with the owners of No. 2014-2 and talked about the building envelope that will be created.

3. NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OPEN SPACE FUND

Mr. Johnson said the Northampton County Open Space Fund agreed to provide \$300,000.00 toward the purchase of property at 4166 Lower Saucon Road, the Woodland Hills property. Mr. Maxfield said they are still talking and the Township is going to enter into the process of subdividing the building to make that a separate piece and we would acquire the old golf course part. They have a buyer for the building. The property had to go back to being natural. This is an acquisition, not an easement.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. ZACK BENEDETTO GIS PROJECT THESIS PRESENTED BY DRU GERMANOSKI

Mr. Germanoski said Zack Benedetto developed a GIS model for the Township. He will send a copy of the power point presentation, Zack's thesis, as well as the software to the Township if anyone from the public or the EAC wants to see it. He went over Zack's power point presentation and answered questions. Mr. Maxfield said he'd like to propose that we send a thank you letter from Lower Saucon Township to Zack in recognition for the work he did.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved that we ask the administration to send a thank you letter to Zack Benedetto for his work and for the valuable data that he's given to the Township.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Absent – Mrs. Yerger, Mr. Beardsley and Mr. Hijazi)

B. MAP OF POTENTIAL CONNECTIVITY – EAC WORKING COPY

Tabled until July 8, 2014 meeting. The map will be ready for the meeting on July 8, 2014.

C. DRAFT AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 180 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE – BILLBOARDS/SIGNS

Mr. Maxfield said every once in a while someone will challenge an ordinance and we did not have this part of billboards and signs covered so in order to resolve the challenge, this was proposed by staff. They had billboards that dealt with lights and moving lights on billboards, but nothing that

was specifically digital or had images that would change, so that's why you see references in here of every six seconds. There are some new terms in the glossary that were not in the old ordinance. We did not generally allow changing digital billboards anywhere. We had one application from a gas station where they wanted to have the changing signs where cigarettes, then whatever and the ordinance said no. They went for a variance at the ZHB and were not successful. He's sure this would allow something like that.

The EAC had no comment.

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. VALLONE LOT LINE CHANGE – 2546 & 2564 ALPINE DRIVE

Mr. Maxfield said this is on Alpine Drive, but there's a line being moved. It looks like they are planning on tearing down the barn.

The EAC had no comment.

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC – MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014 @ TOWN HALL STARTING AT 6:00 PM – Mr. Maxfield said the volunteer picnic is next Monday.

B. NATIVE PLANT SALE – SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2014 @ SV FARMER'S MARKET - Terry Boos said there will be a space there for them at the Farmer's Market.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2014 MINUTES

MOTION BY: Mr. Johnson moved for approval of the May 13, 2014 minutes.

SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Absent – Mr. Hijazi, Mrs. Yerger and Mr. Beardsley)

VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- Mr. Johnson said Northampton County's plan, Livable Landscapes, which is their plan to develop a new open space plan. He sent everyone a email today from the County and it gives you an idea what's going on. They are going to start having public meetings in which the dates are in your email. Their goal is try to get ideas from people about what should be included in an open space plan.

VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE

- Mr. Boos said regarding Hellertown's reconfiguration of Water Street Park, they had a meeting with Public Works and the Borough Manager and the Farmers' Market will be moving approximately the beginning of September. They will be starting the phasing of the work this summer. The market will be moving to the infield between the Rail Trail and the entrance road. The area where the market currently exists will be the parking location.

IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS/PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Johnson said last meeting Mr. Boos reported on a meeting he attended in Hellertown where the people who are construction engineers describe what was going on with the work on Route 412. They are having a problem building a bridge that is supposed to go across Lower Saucon. They were trying to dig foundation excavations and it was filling up with water to the point where they couldn't pump the water out fast enough. He asked why that might be going on? Mr. Germanoski said it could be that they intersected a fracture in that work and it discharged right to the stream. The ground water is so high they can't pump it fast enough. It's pretty common when you are in the discharge zone.

**Environmental Advisory Council
June 10, 2014**

- Mr. Maxfield said we got copies of brochures from Penn State Extension if anyone wants to take them.
- Mr. Maxfield said there's a project he'd like to do which is based on something that's occurred in the last couple of weeks and it has to do with Woodland Hills. Somebody called the Township and complained about the weed ordinance not being applied to Woodland Hills. He wrote Chris Garges an email asking if they knew we were going to acquire that and want it to be naturalized. Chris said it's just the small strip next to the cart way, which our weed ordinance calls for 25' from the cart way that has to be cut, and what happened was a woman saw a snake come out of the grass and was afraid for safety of her family and cutting back the weeds would help that. We've had others complain about snakes and other animals. He'd like to put together a guide of local fauna just to give people an idea of what is safe and what is not safe. He did hear we may possibly on Granite Hill have a rattlesnake or two, but the vast majority of anything we have here is not dangerous. The Council actually asked that we put it out on the website or in the newsletter. This way we could give it to the public. He'd like to work on this project in the next few months just for accuracy sake. He will talk to Mrs. Yerger as she has plenty of resources of people that can give us more information.
- Ms. Palik said a local Boy Scout Troop adopted the Native Plant Garden next door and will start weeding within a week or so.
- Mr. Boos said the meadow planting at the Reading Drive Trailhead has been planted and the plants are thriving and things are going well. Predation by deer and ground hogs has been minimal. This was a volunteer planting.
- Mr. Maxfield said Diane Husic, Professor from Moravian College has been cataloging changes associated with climate change and species moving. One of the things they talk about with climate changes, he saw a hummingbird on Japanese Honeysuckle and also notice all the garlic mustard along his driveway has been munched down by deer. He hopes they are adapting. If you see anything like that, Diane is a great resource, and you should let her know.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for adjournment. The time was 8:20 P.M.
SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson
ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Absent – Mr. Hijazi, Mrs. Yerger and Mr. Beardsley)

Sandra Yerger, Chair