

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 7:05 P.M., at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members:** Chair, Sandra Yerger; Tom Maxfield, Colin Guerra, Laura Ray, and Allan Johnson. Absent – Ted Beardsley and Tom McCormick. **Associate Members:** Dru Germanoski; Absent – Hazem Hijazi and Glenn Kaye. **Planner:** – Absent (not needed); **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos; **Jr. Council Member:** Vacant.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**A. RICHARD MARSON – 2383 WASSGERGASS ROAD**

Mrs. Yerger said Mr. Beardsley called her and said he couldn't be at the meeting this evening. He wanted to give the EAC an update on the Marson property. He did talk to Mr. Marson and he is very soon, within a week, going to have his own appraisal done for the property. Then he will share that information with us. It's moving forward slowly, but we are moving on that. Ms. Ray said is this a special appraisal? Mrs. Yerger said she thinks he just needed to see a second one for himself and for verification. That's her understanding. Mr. Johnson said doesn't it have to be accepted by the Township? Doesn't it have to be one of our appraisers on that list? Mr. Maxfield said he thinks what we normally do is for the second appraisal give them the list and they chose from that list. Mr. Johnson said if they do get a second appraisal and it's different than the first appraisal, then what do we do? Mrs. Yerger said usually unless there's some kind of wild skew on the numbers, they usually take the two and take the middle ground, the difference between the two. We've had to do that before. We did that with the very first property we did open space on. This is not unusual. If you use any kind of State or Federal monies, they all require two appraisals, minimum, sometimes three because they want to be reassured the values are coming in at the right consistency.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL APPLEBUTTER ROAD REZONING**

Mrs. Yerger said this agenda item has been tabled until July. We have requested some additional environmental information. Mr. Maxfield wanted the water divide. We wanted topo maps to show the steep slopes, what was on the property, who owned the property, that kind of thing, so it would help us decide how we want to discuss this proposal. Hopefully, by July, everything will be in place and then we can have a more meaningful discussion on the zoning map.

**B. DISCUSSION ON DRAVECZ PROPERTY – NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Mrs. Yerger said hopefully you all got to look at it this time to give some feedback. We need to give the feedback and recommendations by the end of the month. The gentleman who is in charge of this program for Natural Lands Trust will no longer be working for them as of June 30, 2012, and she doesn't see foresee anyone, as per his email to her, taking over that position, so he would like to get it wrapped up as soon as possible for his report. He will incorporate any recommendations or revisions we see might be necessary.

Mr. Johnson said from reading the report he realized that the Dravec property is five parcels that the Township purchased from Mr. Dravec and is not in the conservation easement, is that correct? Mrs. Yerger said right. What we own is not in a conservation easement, so if you look at the map, the six parcels are owned. This one is under easement. Mr. Johnson said the one circled in black is in easement. Mr. Germanoski said the orange on the key is listed under "easement".

Mr. Maxfield said he thought we had it all the way down to the road. Mrs. Yerger said no, we do not. She said there are seven parcels that are owned and then this one is under easement, which includes the ponds. This is not eased. Mr. Johnson said where the orange border is, that's under easement? Mrs. Yerger said yes. This section is still owned by Dravec and is not under easement. Mr. Johnson said it's not under easement? Mrs. Yerger said no.

Mr. Johnson said wouldn't it be a good idea to put that under a conservation easement? Mrs. Yerger said the easiest way to do it other than a conservation easement would be to put it under a deed restriction, which would probably be as effective as it would run with the land just like an easement and it would be a lot less complicated and easier to do.

Mr. Maxfield do you have any ideas about how easily that could be removed, a deed restriction? Mrs. Yerger said she thinks we could put that question to Terry Clemons. That would be one of them we could do, and make a recommendation and find out whether it would be in the interest of the Township to look into a deed restriction and/or easement for the property so it's permanently protected as you are right. Right now the Township, should they wish, could sell the property. The only thing is this was purchased with DCNR money, so DCNR has a vested interest in this property, so we would need to determine and either ask Laura Baird or Terry Clemons exactly what the restrictions are, as per the DCNR agreement for the funding.

Mr. Johnson said he didn't think it would be very expensive to put a conservation easement on it. Mrs. Yerger said the problem with a conservation easement is you are definitely going to have to know the metes and bounds. Ms. Ray said you should know that anyway. Mrs. Yerger said she agrees with that. Mr. Johnson said it comes out of open space money, so it's no different than what we are already doing.

Mr. Maxfield said he doesn't mind pursuing a conservation easement. What he's really concerned about is whether the deed restriction is just as effective as the conservation easement. Mrs. Yerger said her statement is in light of the fact that it was funded by DCNR. So DCNR has restrictions, and she doesn't know that actual contract. When they give you money for land, for recreational purposes, there are usually restrictions, so they would have to undo what the State put on the property, so let's determine what's been done.

Ms. Ray said it wouldn't help to undo a deed restriction if that was part of DCNR's requirement. She remembers at some Council meetings, people with deed restrictions, it's pretty easy to toss them right out.

Mr. Maxfield said he doesn't think you could have a conservation easement and deed restriction together. He keeps thinking about the liability. We've already had neighbors talking about hunting and trespassing and all those sorts of things, for liability to the Township, and for just our general knowledge, eventually we are going to have to break down and get a survey of this property. Mrs. Yerger said she agrees. First of all, as we all read this management plan, she's assuming one of the things they talk about is at some time in the future, possibly the near future, to have some kind of deer management plan which will require hunting of some limited capacity. Whether you get professional hunters to come in or you open it up for two days during hunting season, you still then need to know the boundaries on what you are allowing people to hunt on Township lands and if you don't know where those boundaries are, it's going to be pretty difficult, and that's down the

road, at this point, but then too, we are going to have to know where we can allow people to hunt and where you aren't going to allow people to hunt.

Mr. Maxfield said we had people picking up stakes and moving stakes, so if we were to survey it, monumentize it, and put that cement thing in the ground so it's hard to move, he doesn't see what would be the problem there. It can't be a process that takes forever and costs us thousands and thousands of dollars, so maybe we could suggest that the Township put out bids to different surveyors to see who can give us a good quality survey for the least amount of time and money. We know there are other people around.

Mrs. Yerger said the other thing is just to implement any of this management plan, again, we need to know where our boundaries are. If we start removing invasives, we start cutting down tree of heaven, and then it turns out to be someone else's property. Implementing any of this management plan becomes an issue, and she thinks some of it has a lot of merit. We need to know where the vernal pools are, where the streams are, what the Township really has control of. She would love to do a meadow restoration. She would love to do some riparian buffer plantings. The wetlands are up further into the areas of what the Township owns and to do any kind of habitat enhancement up there is going to be next to impossible unless it's dead center on the property to assume what is and what isn't Township lands.

Mr. Maxfield said Mr. Johnson was up there, do you know offhand where the gas line is on this map? Mr. Johnson said yes and showed Mr. Maxfield. Mr. Maxfield said he doesn't know if any of you got the communication, but they got one from the Township. A management company who is working for either the gas company, Columbia Gas possibly, or PPL and the gas company as sometimes they share easements, they are pursuing the same kind of program that PPL has been doing in the Township where it's like cut it straight to the ground, 100' on either side of it, and basically they are spraying the crap out of it and killing everything.

Mr. Johnson said regarding the electric lines, their reason is the trees get too close to the wires, and it causes trouble, but most gas pipelines are underground. Mrs. Yerger said her neighbor has a gas line that goes through part of his property and what he has to do is keep it mowed so you don't have to establish large trees on the property. He mows it once or twice a year and lets it go meadow the rest of the year. He doesn't have any significant vegetation and getting around pipes and messing up with things. Mr. Johnson said he's seen them putting gas lines right through a swamp. How are you going to kill everything in the swamp and what are they going to do there.

Mr. Maxfield said what they'd done so far is go right down across streams and killed everything on the banks. PPL has been doing the same thing. They are pursuing this new burn mentality and the burn part is herbicides. The stuff they herbicided last fall is still brown. He doesn't know what they are using and doesn't know why they are doing it like that. The statement we got in the letter said something like we feel it is our duty to help our co-easement person or company, so we're going to maintain it. They talk about using an arborist, which is funny, because they cut everything down to the ground. This is something we are going out have to be conscious of on this property because the last thing we want is spray. The Township does not use spray. He could understand if they feel they need to cut it, but we should make a definite recommendation that on a conserved property, or next to any of our streams, they do not use spray. They go wherever they want to right now. Mrs. Yerger said who is the gas company? Mr. Maxfield said the lines are owned by Columbia Gas. Mrs. Yerger said can we send a letter to Columbia Gas? She doesn't know if it's going to be effective, but we can try.

Mr. Maxfield said in places where there are shared easements, it's going to be like a utility, just like PPL. His point is, which we should take on as an EAC, we need to invoke the muscle that we have with the utilities to stop this kind of burn mentality as it's overkill. Anyone who has seen one of those easements knows it's just a flat out overkill. It's purely for their convenience and has

nothing to do with the environment, has nothing to do with the sustainability of habitat; nothing to do with any of that stuff that we as an EAC are about. He's going to keep asking if we could develop some sort of recommendations we could pass on to Council to deal with this, and it may be simply that we sit down and talk with these utilities and tell them what we want and why. There is, from talking to the attorney's, freedoms they are taking, they are not really legally to do. They just can't go anywhere and just do what they want, but they position themselves like they can.

Mr. Johnson said he's seen in PPL's literature the reason they are doing this is because of the Federal government. If the Federal government has some kind of law or ordinance they sent to PPL telling them to do this, first make a copy of that and see what they are told to do. Mr. Maxfield said this is what is going on because the Federal government sends them mandates, for PPL for instance, we don't want power outages. You had too many last year so solve the problem. It's their interpretation how they solve that problem. If their interpretation is total convenience, total whatever, out by where he lives, they've cut the heck out of the Township, and they are still losing power, so it's obviously not working in many different ways. Mr. Johnson said he saw along Ringhoffer Road, how they sprayed there. There's no grass there to keep the rain water back and there are steep slopes. Isn't there a conservation district in Easton? They have some rules over that. Mr. Maxfield said he has spoken to their watershed specialist about that, and he said he was going to talk to a couple of their office people to find out what can be done, but he hasn't heard anything back yet.

Mr. Johnson said they don't seem to be doing anything in the farmer's fields. They don't mess with the fields. He doesn't think they will do anything on the Dravec property where the conservation easement is. The other part is, the gas line isn't on our property too much, it's only a small portion.

Mr. Germanoski said you'll be interested to get that information what directive did they receive to see how much leeway they might be taking. Do we ever have other opportunities to talk to other EAC's? If Lower Saucon EAC contacts Columbia Gas, it's easy for them to sort of shrug it off, but if we were to have a conservation with other EAC's in the county, then maybe the message would be a little louder if it was a group. Mrs. Yerger said we are part of the Regional EAC network just because we are in the EAC in that geographic region. They are doing meetings monthly. They are usually up the line like in Upper or Lower Mt. Bethel, so we haven't really had the opportunity to go to them. That might be a forum to do that, but that would be one of the places we could take it if we are really concerned about it. Mr. Maxfield said not only gas lines, but power lines. Springfield has been trying to talk to PPL about them not going down and crashing through Cooks Creek. Mrs. Yerger said they had a settlement. What they did is basically PPL went through, did what they wanted to do, and then gave them money. They took them to court and they got like \$200,000.00, but in the long term for PPL, that was nothing. They did it first, then the Township had to sue them and then they did get a settlement. The Bucks Herald reported on it back in March or April.

Mr. Johnson said before we start charging ahead, maybe we ought to wait and see if the gas company is going to do the same kind of herbicides that the electric company uses. The gas line by the sportsmen's club on Ringhoffer is sprayed and brown. Columbia Gas, their facilities are right on Applebutter Road. Mr. Johnson said he thinks they have a depressurization station along side of Easton Road. From there, a gas line goes over to the power plant. It goes across Ringhoffer Road and then goes to the big power plant. Mr. Maxfield said it goes down and back again? Mr. Johnson said that's the one that goes to the power plant. The main line goes up over the hill and down to the Dravec property. There's a branch right there at that point. Then it goes up over the hill. It probably goes through the property that we just got under conservation easement or maybe it goes through the guy's farm next to Countryside Road. If you look alongside the road, there are usually the pipes that show you where they are crossing the road. Mr. Maxfield said maybe we can do some more investigation and see what kind of recommendation we would like to make. He's

really surprised that County Conservation isn't involved because when you look at the line that comes down along the high overpass on I-78, that's erosion waiting to happen, and there's nothing grown there, and it's down to the dirt. We also have that steep bank that's in the City of Bethlehem, but on the way to Steel City, close to where the fire was up on the ridge, with the power lines, they just came through there and blasted everything right to the ground. That's over 25% slope on Shimersville Road. They leave it a total mess. There's places in Bethlehem he's seen lately where they cut their litter drops and they don't clean up anything. Whatever they are doing, and he could pick out a million examples, it is not right. Mr. Johnson said find out what they are doing and maybe we can get together with other people and put our heads together.

Mr. Guerra said there are spray logs and they have to give them to you. It's Federal law. Mr. Maxfield said there might not be any restrictions on how often they can spray either. Mr. Guerra said it's illegal to use any chemical that's not labeled for, so if it says on the label you can spray once every four weeks and you do it once every two weeks, that's technically illegal and they can get fined very heavily for that. Mr. Maxfield said whatever PennDOT uses along the State highways, that kills things dead for the entire summer. Mr. Guerra said they use a foliar burn down, and usually doesn't get absorbed into the root system, but it's very unsightly.

Mrs. Yerger said we have two issues. One is Mr. Johnson's and Mr. Maxfield's concern with getting a survey. She would think we need to pursue that with the Dravec property. We need to add Mr. Maxfield's caveat that we need to send out a RFP to make sure that this is done in a timely fashion at a cost effective rate. Mr. Maxfield said can we say a survey that we feel we need a conservation easement on the property, but he would guess we need that from Terry Clemons first, but we need a survey. Mrs. Yerger said before we do anything, we need a survey and then we can then pursue a conservation easement. Mr. Johnson said actually the survey shouldn't be all that difficult. From what he and Ron Horiszny have discovered in their trips out there, a large part of the property borders on another property where the monuments are clearly marked. It's the Kipp or Petco property. The northern part has already been surveyed as we bought that property there. It's only the two sides, the east and west, which are a mystery.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved to petition Council to do a survey on the parts of the Dravec property that the Township currently owns and send out for RFP's to make it as cost-effective and quick as possible.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Beardsley and Mr. McCormick – Absent)

Mrs. Yerger said back to the actual report, is there anything that you want her to send back, any revisions? She promised Drew Gilchrist from Natural Lands Trust she would try to wrap this up as it was done through a grant and didn't cost the Township anything. She wants to make sure he can do his grant report effectively. Mr. Johnson said he suggested we would like to let him know of possibilities of what we want to do. He sent an email to the President of the Saucon Creek Watershed Association informing her that we have all these things we're supposed to do and maybe the Saucon Creek Watershed Association can help out. Mrs. Yerger said currently, we're just starting down that process, we're doing a lot of work and studies with amphibians and turtles in Williams, Upper Bucks, and potentially Lower Saucon. It's being done again by an outside entity. We may be able to get them to come and take a look at these vernal pools and do a study on what's there and they may even be able to do a turtle analysis. With all those ponds and the stream and the meadow, it looks like some pretty good turtle habitat. They are looking for specific species. She doesn't know if that's what they are going to find, but right now, quite honestly, a lot of amphibians and most turtles are losing habitat other than snappers who are incredibly adaptable. More and more of them are starting to show up on the threatened and endangered list, the species of concern list, so they are doing some studies really quickly. She might be able to contact them if we are interested and can look into that and come back next month and talk about that. Mr. Johnson said is a very good idea.

Mrs. Yerger said unofficially right now she will contact the man at the Mid-Atlantic Herpetological Conservation Inc. These guys are top notch and know their stuff. They are in charge of the whole middle Atlantic, but are based in Pa. He's a nice guy. We can probably get that done, and he has the capacity to branch over to some of the turtles and reptiles as well.

Mr. Maxfield said the stewardship idea is really cool. He'd like to have immediate goals and far reaching goals. You can participate at different levels of cost also. Do we need to recommend this stewardship program to Council? Mrs. Yerger said she thinks so as long as we have no corrections, concerns, as far as the implementation of it. She didn't see anything. It is just recommendations. It doesn't say you must this, this and this. She thought they were pretty sound. To all of our points, we really should not be implementing any of this until we know exactly if we're allowed do to this with confidence.

Mr. Maxfield said he thought this report was recommending surveys, but it says under recommendations for aesthetics and hazards, it says survey remainder of property for similar issues. He thinks they are talking about old tree stands and sinks. Mrs. Yerger said she did like in particular, of perhaps changing the trail course. Once we get it surveyed, once we start thinking about getting it open to the public, on a regular basis, she thinks taking it away from the vernal pools, and that, so it would be a good idea and to be cautious about the way they come back down the mountain if we are going to be doing a loop or a slope, so it doesn't cause erosion. Both of those were good recommendations.

Mr. Johnson said the little stream does cross the trail. You have to get wet feet if you don't hop across. Mr. Maxfield said amphibians like salamanders and frogs, if they are breeding in a vernal pool, they will travel up to 200' to 400'. They go pretty far - the further away from the vernal pools, the better. Mrs. Yerger said what they are probably doing is they are coming down off the wooded slope to the vernal pools. That's pretty much what they do. They sort of hibernate in the rocky uplands and migrate down to the pools, and usually the pools are down slope. Unfortunately, most times we're not allowed, but times they tended to do things like run roads between the hibernating site and the breeding site. The breeding pools are on one side of the road and the hibernating site is over here, and that's been one of the big issues on why some of them are turning into species of concern because of losing thousands of them at a time during the breeding season.

Mrs. Yerger said we have a recommendation for Council and she will tell Drew everything looks good. We will recommend to Council that they adopt this plan for the Dravec plan.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Johnson moved to recommend to Council that the report of the Natural Lands Trust Stewardship plan for the Dravec property, Lower Saucon Township be adopted by the Township.
- SECOND BY:** Ms. Ray
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Beardsley and Mr. McCormick – Absent)

**C. DISCUSSION ON SLATE BELT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS RESOLUTION**

Mrs. Yerger said you should have the Slate Belt Council resolution. She asked for this to be put in the packet because she thought it was interesting. This is the first time she has ever seen anything addressed to farmland preservation. She also thought maybe we could use this as a template. She knows we asked LST Council to send a letter to our local representatives with regards to the Keystone Funding to make sure that wasn't cut from the State budget. She knows there was discussion in the House that it was going to be put back in. She doesn't know what the PA Senate did, it may still be in that limbo land. Since this was is a larger body, that we would then ask the Townships if they already implemented that to the local representatives and ask them to take the issue to the COG and have them as a larger entity write the same letter requesting not having the Keystone Funding. Since we don't have as much farmland, but we may take the same template and

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ask the COG to do the Keystone Funding, to not have it eliminated from the State budget for the natural areas. It was sort of a two prong approach. Mr. Johnson said he thinks the State budget is supposed to be finished by the end of June. Mrs. Yerger said yes, they would have to do it soon.

Mr. Boos said this morning there was an article in the Express Times that Lower and Upper Mt. Bethel have banned together to put a letter to the legislature for preservation farmland. Mrs. Yerger said we can do the farmland. We don't have gobs of it, but we still have some. We can do this for farmland; we can do this for Keystone. It's whatever, as both of them have been cut right now. Mr. Johnson said were you suggesting that the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Township-Saucon Valley School District COG write a letter? Mrs. Yerger said correct. We could get our Council to do it for the farmland. She hopes they did the Keystone as we made that recommendation. The LST Council definitely meet next week, so that could get in before the final budget is done. Mr. Germanoski said if you go back to the map that was made showing the major tracts of space in the Township, at the eastern end, the Pichel Farm was farmland, and some property down on Redington Road. Mrs. Yerger said Petrie.

Mr. Germanoski said although there are not a lot of farms, there are several with significant acreage. Mrs. Yerger said maybe that would be more impactful. We don't receive the funding; we still receive it as important. We are adjacent to Williams and they have gobs of farmland, and it affects the quality of anyone who lives on that side of the Township, Springfield as well. They have significant farmlands. It at least affects our neighbors, so it shows we are in support of our neighbor's farmland preservation. She doesn't know that it is a bad thing in itself. We could take this template, and if anything else, at least have our Council ask them to do the same kind of letter in support of farmland preservation. They would obviously have to amend it a little bit as we can't say how many acres we preserved in the Township.

Ms. Ray said you could say what you just said about supporting our neighboring farmland with their lands. Mr. Johnson said it looks like you have to send a letter to twelve different people. Mrs. Yerger said that's fine. We did preserve one of our farms – the Mease farm, Saylor's Mease Farm. We did our fourteen acres, but it preserved a 60 some acre farm as it spanned Springfield. Again we do have them. They are not as prevalent as in some of these communities, but we certainly have farmland. Saylor's is a very viable farm. Mr. Maxfield said the whole part of the Benner property is prime soils also. Mrs. Yerger said even if they are not actively farmed right now, there still is potential like the Benner property to be farmed in the future. Mr. Johnson said he knows a person who owns about 20 acres of prime farmland who is considering a conservation easement or thinking about it, so there's another possible 20 acres. Mr. Germanoski said the Chuck property is going to become Benner-Whitmore again. Apparently, Benner bought it. Mrs. Yerger said the last she heard, it wasn't finalized. Mr. Germanoski said he thinks it has been now as the sign has changed. Mrs. Yerger said Terry Clemons is already talking to him.

Mr. Johnson said the Charles Martin property is under consideration. Mrs. Yerger said the Bob Griffith property before you get up Flint Hill, is a farm back in that area that is still viable, so we do have farms.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved to recommend to the Township to send a letter in support of ag land preservation to stay in the budget.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Beardsley and Mr. McCormick – Absent)

Mrs. Yerger said we can let Mr. Cahalan fool around with it a little bit and put it on the next Council agenda, the EAC would really appreciate it. She figures it can't hurt.

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None**

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. UPDATE ON GOOGLE EARTH PROGRAM & LAPTOP FOR EACH USE

Mr. Germanoski said one of the things when he mentioned the other EAC's in a group meeting, he thinks Mrs. Yerger will receive a notice from Jean Ortiz about the meeting later in July where they are going to discuss GIS opportunities for EAC's in trying to get EAC's involved. In particular, what he has working for us is at the next meeting, or if someone wants it sooner, he can deliver a PC laptop with Google Earth and GIS on it. The reason he doesn't have it right now is it was still loading the data files from the LVPC GIS system, so all of that will be on there. We will have that and it's on loan from Lafayette to our EAC and with the objective and hope that we will utilize students at Lafayette to do work for us on an as-needed basis. In particular, this fall, their GIS class has a large enrollment and the instructor is looking for projects of this sort. He works with the Township's routinely, so this is where this starts to get multi-faceted. He will do whatever we want. He will come to our next meeting and give a demonstration if we want. He will host several or how many of us who want to go to Lafayette or he'll come here and meet and run through some of the possibilities with the main objective being if we can identify some overlays or information we would like digitized and put into the GIS system for our benefit, he could put a student or two on that project in the fall as the class is project-based. We could sit back and think about whether we want to look first the LVPC maps and see what's there and then think what isn't there which might be of value or interest. Here's where having John Wilson come by to give us a demonstration as a brainstorming mechanism. Whether we want to devote a segment of our meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> to this or try to find some other common time. John doesn't teach in the summer so his daytime is pretty wide open. He knows many of us do work, so it's not that simple, so he'll also should something for the evening. It's pretty wide open. He thinks there's a golden opportunity here and we should take advantage of. The computer will be available with Google Earth if you want to show potential preservation properties to landowners to discuss how things fit together and how it would fit in a mosaic of surrounding properties. John routinely runs GIS workshops for Watershed Manager's who don't have experience with it. He's done it at least twice now. This could be a starting point for us to start looking at.

Mrs. Yerger said the property across from her house spans Lower Saucon and Williams is still farmland. It is a fairly large piece of farmland. Would he be open if we wanted to extend the invitation for someone from an adjacent Township to come in? Mr. Germanoski said he thinks that would be okay. In fact, that's what part of the purpose of this late July meeting is going to be. He thinks John is going to be involved in that and try and get this opportunity out there to the EAC's of the area. We just have to decide what works best. If we want to have him come and give a brief discussion at our next meeting and then try to decide to schedule a little more robust from that, that's a possibility. Last words were out of John's mouth today were "let me know what you want and that's what we'll do".

Mr. Johnson said what comes to his mind is the Dravec property. It would be nice if the trails could be put on the GIS so we could have an overhead projection and see where the trails go. Mr. Germanoski said John sees it ideal as a project when the students are involved in a mix of field and database work, combined. That's usually the best. The tricky part is the GPS becomes a little bit iffy with a full canopy, but the course is in the fall so they can start parametrizing a lot of information and then go out there and running a traverse on trails and so forth in late October, early November is perfectly manageable, and they would add that in. If we want to invite John to our next meeting July 10<sup>th</sup>, we can do whatever you want. Mrs. Yerger said that would be great. If he's willing to do that as we already have this meeting time and we can then open it if Watershed people want to come from the Township. If you can think of anyone else, she'd be more than happy to contact them. The reason she through Williams out is, they do not have an EAC. They have an Open Space Committee. She would think that they might, for the bordering parcels, and we have a lot of natural areas and some of these properties on the high priority are close to Williams, so it might benefit them since they would not be able to partake of the EAC meeting you

are talking about. Mr. Germanoski said he's used to working with a variety of constituencies. Typically what he's been working up to this point are Watershed Associations. He's done a lot of work with the Jacoby Creek Watershed Association, Bushkill Watershed Association. There's also a Fry's Run Watershed Association which opens the door naturally to some sort of organized body for him to work with. The Welcome Center in Lower Mt. Bethel, that big watershed that's on the wall there, John did that for them. He's used to doing work of this sort with Planning Commission's, Township's, Watershed Association's, etc. It gives our students a chance to solve real world problems. They get a little extra motivation out of doing something that has direct value and lasting value to someone else.

Mrs. Yerger said she'd love to see a better delineation of the wetlands here in the Township. That would be incredible. We don't have a real good handle on that. Mr. Germanoski said he knows the wetland and vernal pools are tricky as you have to get out and field map them, but there was that aerial photo coverage around 2004 that we have that happened after Ivan. There was significant precipitation and the drainage network is really well illustrated, only in Northampton County. A lot of these service water hydrological features show up pretty nicely on that imagery. LVPC is who they got it from. It's aerial photo coverage with blue line overlaid that was digitized off of digital photos. It's pretty remarkable data set, and that would provide us with an opportunity and some mix of that followed up with field checking's that student could go out with maps and aerial photos where we believe there is a hydrological feature and field check it. We could at least do it on the properties we have access to.

Mrs. Yerger said she's sure she could talk to some of the landowners and her neighbor's into it. Mr. Germanoski said everyone has his email address, so between now and July 10<sup>th</sup>, if any suggestions or ideas pop into your head of anything you would like to pursue, he can at least prime John when he comes here to that meeting. He's assuming he should invite him? Mrs. Yerger said yes that would be great. Mr. Germanoski said he can respond to some of the things we dream up and request and it will be a good process to where based on what he'll tell us what he's done for Bushkill Creek, Martin Jacoby, and that will inspire us to think of some ways in which we could use that. They do things where they have students brainstorm a management plan. There are properties up in the Metzger field's complex in Forks Township where students put together a complete master plan as part of a project. There's a follow-up possibility. There are the students in the GIS class where they are doing GIS-based projects. If things take off and we decide we want something more comprehensive and along a planning document, there are engineering courses where the engineers do courses. They are now heavily involved in doing sustainable management, sustainable development, so he can enlist probably faculty and other courses to maybe follow up. This would be a good starting point. Mrs. Yerger said this would be great. Mr. Germanoski said we talked about this a year or so ago, but he thinks now something is happening. We will have a PC that the EAC can use.

Mrs. Yerger said we can project it. We can have Diane help us project it, so if we want to invite others, it can go on the screen. We can invite the Watershed and she will get some people here. That is just great, thank you so much. Mr. Germanoski said John is really good with this whole thing. He lives on a farm in Upper Mt. Bethel and he communicates well with people who don't exactly know what they want and may have some ideas. Mrs. Yerger said she will ask Diane to send out that we are going to have this, and send her or Mr. Germanoski the ideas for those who weren't here tonight. That will help remind all of us to do that.

Mr. Johnson said are the property lines on GIS more accurate than the County? Mr. Germanoski said yes, some of it involves the projections. If you get photos off of maps, they sometimes don't match. Mr. Johnson said would that be of interest to the engineering department to find out what the difference is? Mr. Germanoski said they probably don't want to be involved in that, and then you'll be doing legal surveys on the ground. To check them, you do have to survey them. We're all used to the hand held GIS units you buy from Cabella's or a Garmin and they have decent

resolution, but they have two Thalles units that basically have a couple of meters of resolution, so instead of 30', it's 3' to 6'. Students go out there as part of this project and map and you have higher resolution. Mrs. Yerger said this will be on the next agenda "GIS Presentation with John Wilson from Lafayette College".

Mr. Johnson asked if it was Google Earth Pro. Mr. Germanoski said it's probably regular Google Earth, but he'll check.

**B. REPORT OF NATIVE PLANT SALE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2012 – SV FARMERS MARKET – 9AM TO 1PM**

Mrs. Yerger said Terry Boos was nice enough to set up the booth and we did okay. Mr. Boos said he purchased 29 plants from Edge of the Woods. He has four more plans that he purchased at the Farmer's Market the week before, which is 33. They all found homes. Things went well. Mrs. Yerger said we sold pretty many the people at the market. It was Native Columbine and things like that. Mr. Boos said it was mostly stuff that he picked that he would take home if no one bought them. It was a nice little assortment and were really healthy. Mrs. Yerger thanks Terry for picking them up. There was some literature and things so it was pleasant to see people talk who have them in their gardens.

**C. ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC – MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2012 – 6PM TO 8PM @ TOWN HALL**

Mrs. Yerger said the flyers went out. If you didn't do so, please respond to Diane.

**D. HELLERTOWN-LOWER SAUCON COMMUNITY DAY – SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2012 – 10AM TO 5PM**

Mrs. Yerger said Mr. Cahalan usually has a Township table and the EAC puts literature out. If you want to volunteer for that morning, let her know. We can talk about this next month. We can try to secure any brochures that we think would be good to share with our residents.

**E. AERC RECYCLING EVENT – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012 – 9AM TO NOON – (EVENT WILL NOW INCLUDE FOR FREE – REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, DEHUMIDIFIERS AND AIR CONDITIONERS)**

Mrs. Yerger said flyers went around. They will now include refrigerators and the larger appliances. Please take a couple and put them up at work, in stores, wherever you can.

**F. FALL ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP – PICK A DATE AND TIME**

Mrs. Yerger said we did our Spring clean-up. We got three or four bags. It was pretty clean this time. The EAC picked Saturday, October 27, 2012 on 9 am and they will meet at the bridge.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2012 MINUTES**

Mrs. Yerger sad we have the March 13, 2012 minutes to approve.

Mr. Johnson said:

- Page 1, line 28, it should be "like Mr. Terry Clemons to attend instead of Mr. Beardsley.
- Page 4 of 11, line 32, it should be "northeast" instead of northwest.

**MOTION BY:** Ms. Ray moved for approval of the March 13 2012 minutes, with corrections.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Maxfield  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Beardsley and Mr. McCormick – Absent)

**B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 8, 2012 MINUTES**

Mrs. Yerger said we have the May 8, 2012 minutes for approval. Mr. Johnson said:

- Page 2, line 5 should be “Silver Creek” instead of Spring.
- Page 4 of 11, line 48, it should be “vistas” instead of visas.
- Page 11 of 11, line 7, the word should be “engineers” instead of engines.

Mr. Germanoski said:

- Starting on page 9 of 11, the word is “Arc View” instead of Art View. It’s in there a couple of times.
- Page 9 of 11, line 5, the word into should be “in to”.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Johnson moved for approval of the May 8, 2012 minutes, with corrections.  
**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Maxfield – Abstained; Mr. Beardsley and Mr. McCormick – Absent)

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

**VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT** – No report

**IX. NON-AGENDA ITEM** – None

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Ms. Ray moved for adjournment. The time was 8:24 PM.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Guerra  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Mr. Beardsley and Mr. McCormick – Absent)

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Sandra Yerger, Chair