

I. **OPENING**

- A. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.
- B. **ROLL CALL: Members:** Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Tom Maxfield, Vice Chairman; Ted Beardsley, Laura Ray, & Haz Hijazi; Absent: Allan Johnson & Dru Germanoski. **Associate Members:** Glenn Kaye, Sarah Stanlick & Thomas Carocci. Absent: Michael Boyle & David Jauregui. **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos. **LST Staff:** Leslie Huhn
- C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

II. **OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

A. **PROPERTY UPDATES**

1. **MARSON EASEMENT PLAN AND BASELINE**

The Baseline was prepared by Wildland's Conservancy and reviewed by the EAC. There was discussion regarding numerous typographical errors and the species list that was included. Mrs. Yerger had concerns that not all the species (both plant and animal) were actually witnessed as being on the property, which in the future would be a problem when a review of the property is done. It could be noted that a species is no longer on the property when it may never have been there originally. The wetlands are not shown on the property map.

Discussion ensued as to the purpose of a baseline on conservation easements. It was stated that a baseline provides why the property is worthy of preservation and to further provide a value of what is on the property to be able to preserve the species found. That is why it is so important for the accuracy of what the baseline contains.

The EAC would like staff to contact Wildland's and have them correct the typos, revise the species list to indicate what was actually seen in the field or to put some type of disclaimer that the list contains possible animal and plant species that are known to the area but were not necessarily witnessed during the site visit, and revise the property map to show the wetlands.

Mr. Hijazi asked if they could approve the baseline with the condition that it be corrected. The EAC felt the baseline with corrections should come back to them one more time for review before being approved and that it should not be given to the property owner until it has been corrected.

Staff was asked what the cost was to prepare the baseline. Ms. Huhn said she thought it was at a cost not to exceed \$3,000. She will verify that and report back to the EAC.

2. **PROPERTY #2015-1 & #2015-2**

Mrs. Yerger said these two properties will be discussed by the Lower Saucon Council during an executive session on July 15, 2015

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. DRAFT REVISION TO OPEN SPACE MAP

There was discussion regarding the map and the consensus was it looked good. However, Tom would like property #13 to remain colored blue until the purchase has been completed.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved that the EAC recommends that the Open Space Map and Working Map be approved by Council with the revision that property #13 remain colored blue until after the Township purchase is complete.

SECOND BY: Mr. Hijazi

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

B. CONSERVATION EASEMENT/PRESERVED PROPERTY SIGNAGE

There was discussion about placing signs on Township owned properties to indicate that the property is preserved land. It was also discussed that for conservation easements it would be up to the landowner if they wanted a sign placed on their property. Leslie and Tom will put some information together on design and costs and bring it back to a meeting.

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. ELECTRONIC RECYCLING EVENT

Mrs. Yerger said there will be a free electronics recycling event on Saturday, August 1st from 9 a.m. to noon and is being held at the Heintzelman Funeral Home.

B. COMMUNITY DAY

Mrs. Yerger said Community Day will be held on August 22nd at Dimmick Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

C. NATIVE PLANT SALE

Mrs. Yerger said the native plant sale will be postponed to Fall

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 12, 2015 MINUTES

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved for approval of the June 9, 2015 minutes.

SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield

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

VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – None

VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT

Mr. Boos said the Farmer's Market is running a promotion with a cardboard cutout of Terry which can travel around with people, similar to the Flat Stanley promotion. The Union Cemetery will be holding educational tours.

IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Yerger spoke about the possible connectivity between property the Township owns near Polk Valley Park and possibly having a trail linking to the Hellertown Reservoir. It was discussed that staff could reach out to Hellertown Authority to see if they would consider access for walking in that area. There was discussion regarding a large farmhouse that went up for sale near Polk Valley Park and that maybe the Township should look into purchasing.

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Ms. Ray stated the Woodland Hills Preserve would be an excellent area to allow for horseback riding trails. Mr. Maxfield said Woodland Hills is very wet and horses would do a lot of damage. Ms. Ray thought since the property was so large a trail specifically for horses would alleviate damage to walking trails. Mr. Maxfield said we can run this by Judy Stern-Goldstein our planner to get her thoughts. We could also speak with Ginger Petrie as she has a lot of knowledge regarding horses. Mr. Maxfield mentioned that with all the Township parks, recreational areas and properties the Township may want to consider hiring a park person to oversee and maintain the properties.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 7:54 P.M.

SECOND BY: Mr. Beardsley

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

Sandra Yerger, Chair