

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 7:02 P.M. at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Members: Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Tom Maxfield, Vice-Chairman; Laura Ray Allan Johnson. Absent: Hazem Hijazi, Ted Beardsley, Dru Germanoski

Associate Members: Michael Boyle, Sarah Stanlick, Glenn Kaye (arrived at 7:20 P.M.).

Hellertown Liaison: Terry Boos

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Yerger said we will be having an Executive Session of the EAC after we do the regular business and regular agenda. We will be discussing potential real estate acquisition as well.

II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE

A. PROPERTY UPDATES

1. TOWNSEND AND SAVITSKE PROPERTIES – POLK VALLEY & RESERVOIR ROADS

Mrs. Yerger said everyone has a map. She wants to make everyone aware of these two properties. They have been under agreement of sale with the Township. If you look in the bottom right hand corner of the map, they abut Polk Valley Park. They are pretty much a natural extension of the park. The family is in Florida and has had no interest in using the property themselves. It was up for sale. It's a real positive addition for both passive and potential recreation as the Township grows. It seemed like a good acquisition. She also knows we have submitted a grant to DCED for monies to help pay for this acquisition as well. We should find out about that fairly soon. She showed on the map where Reservoir Park of Hellertown was located and said we're very close to connecting both parks which would be very nice.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. EDUCATIONAL NATURE TRAIL AT READING DRIVE PARKING AREA

Mr. Terry Boos said the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Committee has expressed an interest in establishing a nature educational trail at Reading Drive parking area access. He and some other interested people went out to the site and flagged in a potential trail location and the trail location is indicated on the map. The actual trail location traverse is on the other sheet and he just aligned it on the map. The trail is approximately 450' long, so there's not enough room because it's such a narrow property to make it a loop, so the loop would be completed by walking the rail trail. The origin is right in the picnic area. The last point they inventoried for the location was the center of the one concrete seating table. Then it winds its way through the woods and out to the rail trail. For the most part, there may be a half dozen poor quality trees or potential hazard trees that may need to be addressed. Outside of that, the trail more or less will actually follow forest opening so there really isn't any site disturbance to take place except for removal of some invasive space. It's ready to go. He just wanted to get it to the EAC so they could get the ball rolling. They are planning to do inventory along the trail so they have an idea what potential plants to emphasize as far as educational situations and also what invasives will need to be removed. They are envisioning of putting at least a piece of signage at the entrance there at the picnic area that is still under discussion as to what it actually will contain and the size. They have some good ideas on

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that. Possibly they may have another sign at the exit of the rail trail. In addition, they are thinking of utilizing the heritage corridor, the manner in which they identify different objects for their trail system. There are a number of different things they are still talking over. That will come down the road. He's envisioning that if we get approval tonight, it will probably have to go to Boucher & James. He doesn't know if they need to go out and check on it.

Mrs. Yerger said what is the surface going to be? Mr. Boos said he's expecting that they would just mulch it with chips. Mrs. Yerger said she doesn't think you'll need engineering on it nor will Boucher & James have to get involved.

Mr. Boos said he just wanted to have it laid out and he has it flagged. He just wants to make sure that it would meet their approval. He has it that it misses the low spots. They have a slight side hills so they aren't going to be accumulating water. At the very end, they may have to put some sort of corduroy or a walkway across that small swale because of the dip. That would be the only thing that would need any sort of activity. There's one snag near the end of the entrance that might be a potential hazard but PW with their bucket truck would be able to whack it at the halfway mark and just leave the rest of the stumps standing.

Mr. Boyle asked where it was relative to Bingen Road. Mr. Boos showed Mr. Boyle where the Reading Trailhead was.

Mr. Johnson asked several questions about different lines on the map that Mr. Boos had presented. Mr. Boos answered all of Mr. Johnson's questions.

Mr. Boos said they would also like to install a small meadow area out at the edge of the tree line. It would be at the far right where the trees are delineated. It's a small area about 20'x20' at this time that is in stilt grass. They'd like to cardboard it and chip over top and plant native warm seasons grasses in there.

Mr. Johnson said are the boundaries of the piece of ground that LST bought on the map? Mr. Boos said he did not attempt to locate them. They are well within the Township boundaries.

Mr. Johnson asked what kinds of species of plants they were going to plant as before the Township bought it, it was pretty much a pine grove. Mr. Boos said there is a pine stand there. As far as native plants, they are going to be doing an inventory and when they find out what's there, they will think of what will be appropriate. There's wine berry on the trail with the elimination of that, they will have some more additional natives germinate. There's some spice bush germination in the area. It's not really well established, but they will find out more when they do the inventory.

Mr. Johnson said is it just going to be a dirt path? Mr. Boos said the easiest thing to do is have a truck load of mulch to be dropped off there. They'll wheel barrow it in and put it down.

Ms. Ray said this is for walking only, not for bikes? Mr. Boos said correct. It's not long enough to justify using bikes. One of the things in establishing this location is that there's a handful of trees that are non native invasives that need to be coming down or they are potential hazard trees. There are two trees with orange flagging on them and he's assuming PW marked those. Between those pieces of material and whatever invasives would be removed, they could stack that just off the trail to prevent anyone from going off trail and/or being in areas they don't want them in. Mr. Boyle said better than a sign, putting a natural log there.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved to recommend the educational nature trail at Reading Drive parking area to Council for approval.

SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Germanoski, Mr. Hijazi, Mr. Beardsley – Absent)

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. UPDATE ON ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP

Ms. Stanlick said they had a really nice day out. They met and it was herself, Allan, Ted and Michael. They got about two large bags of garbage. Everything went really well. It was a good time. Mr. Boyle said the trash was picked up within two weeks of the clean-up. Mrs. Yerger said we started out getting four or five bags originally from that section, but as we're doing it twice a year, we're getting only two bags of garbage.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 8, 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Johnson said page 1, line 5, it should be "Tom Maxfield, Vice Chairman" presiding.

Page 1, line 47 it should read "watersheds to eventually use it to map potential contaminant travel". Page 7 of 8, line 10, the word "slots" should be changed to "lots".

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for approval of the October 8, 2013 minutes, with corrections.

SECOND BY: Ms. Ray

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Germanoski, Mr. Hijazi, Mr. Beardsley – Absent)

VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – None

VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT

➤ He said the Silver Creek Bridge has not been finished yet.

IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS/PUBLIC COMMENT

➤ Mr. Johnson said future reports on the Livable Landscapes Northampton County Strategic Open Space Plan, at the last meeting, he was asked that the EAC be kept up-to-date on that. He asked where should that be put on the agenda so he can keep you up to date? Old business? Mrs. Yerger said that's fine. Mr. Johnson said he called up and spoke to Bryan Cope today. Bryan is the person at the County who is going to be keeping in charge of the open space and natural resource areas and municipal parks. Maria Bentzoni is going to be concentrating on farmland preservation. Mr. Cope said the Northampton Council did vote to approve the Livable Landscapes Northampton County Strategic Open Space Plan. They have the money and have the okay from the County Council and they are beginning to go ahead with implementing the study and he said there probably won't be too much done until January, but in the meantime they will be sending out invitations to being on the Steering Committee and they are doing some other organizing work.

The EAC recessed for Executive Session. The time was 7:30 PM. The EAC reconvened. The time was 8:05 PM.
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MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved to ask Council if the Solicitor or appropriate staff would look into what the EAC has identified as Property 13-1 for possible purchase with open space monies.

SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Germanoski, Mr. Hijazi, Mr. Beardsley – Absent)

Mrs. Yerger asked Ms. Palik if she could send the Natural Resource Inventory document to all the EAC members.

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Ms. Palik said the Native Plant Garden sign was put up outside of the Township building. Mrs. Yerger and Mr. Maxfield said very nice.

Mrs. Yerger said at Jacobsburg State Park, they are doing a Golden Eagle week if you want to help band Golden Eagles.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for adjournment. The time was 8:12 P.M.

SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Mr. Germanoski, Mr. Hijazi, Mr. Beardsley – Absent)

Sandra Yerger, Chair