

I. OPENING

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 7:04 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandy Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Members: Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Tom Maxfield, Vice Chairman; Ted Beardsley, Laura Ray (arrived at 7:10 PM), and Allan Johnson. **Absent:** Colin Guerra & Dru Germanoski; **Associate Members:** **Absent:** Glenn Kaye and Hazem Hijazi. **Planner:** Absent (not needed); **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos; **Jr. Council Member:** Vacant.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE

A. PROPERTY UPDATES

Mr. Beardsley said there's a letter that was sent to some attorney, but we never got a reply from him.

Mrs. Yerger said Mr. Martin called her multiple times and she referred him to Ted and Leslie. She doesn't think he called either. Mr. Beardsley said that was appraised, and did we make him an offer? Mrs. Yerger said yes, we did. At the time he was not happy, now he's concerned that it's going to be worth even less, and will the appraisal hold. She told him within a year, yes. You let it go three or four years, then it's going to have to get appraised and will be up for grabs, whatever the appraisal comes back in. He's mulling it over.

Mr. Maxfield said he got asked by Staff and Council if Ted got any information on the open space near the landfill? Mr. Beardsley said he was waiting for the maps and the property owners and he never saw anything. He said Mr. Maxfield would ask Chris Garges to send it to Mr. Beardsley. Mr. Maxfield said he will ask Chris, and will call him tomorrow. If we can get some sort of information or statement on it by next meeting, that would be good.

Mrs. Yerger said has anyone heard about what's going on at the properties that were for Phoebe? She was under the impression that the developers contracts might have expired. Mr. Maxfield said that's what he heard today. They weren't sure but they were going to check into it. They think the contracts may have expired and it may be something we may want to make an offer on sometime in the near future. Mrs. Yerger said it was Heritage Building Group. Mr. Maxfield said that's gone, he thinks it's Filler. Mrs. Yerger said what they were thinking is there might have still been some contracts binding with Heritage Building Group on the property. Their rights may not have expired yet. That's what we need to figure out first whether Heritage has any kind of ties or rights to those properties, then we can go to the property owner. If they are bound by some kind of long-term contract, then there's nothing we can do at all.

III. NEW BUSINESS – None

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. UPDATE FROM DRU GERMANOSKI ON GIS SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS OF JOHN WILSON

Mrs. Yerger said Dru Germanoski has a one-page update of the GIS system from the students of John Wilson at Lafayette College. If anyone has any questions or concerns, let us know.

B. AERC RECYCLING EVENT – PICK A DAY FOR FALL 2013 (TOM DITTMAR NEEDS DATE FOR HIS FLYER WHICH GOES OUT IN JANUARY)

Mrs. Yerger said they would like us to pick a date for Fall 2013. Mr. Beardsley said are we only going to do it once a year? Mrs. Yerger said we used to do it twice a year. We have Tom Dittmar here, and will ask him for any suggestions.

Mr. Dittmar said they did have a good event at LST. There were 301 cars. We did collect 29,615 lbs. of electronics plus 8,660 lbs. of air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators and freezers. It pulled a lot out of the way stream. He asked if they have done it twice a year? Mrs. Yerger said we have, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Mr. Beardsley said his suggestion is we should continue to do it twice a year. If the number of people coming starts to dwindle as they've gotten rid of a lot of their stuff, then maybe we can cut back to once a year. He would think for this year we try and do one in the Spring also.

Mr. Dittmar said he has a meeting this Friday with AERC. There is a discussion of them stopping to do these events. They are losing money. When they were able to charge years ago for the materials, they brought in their labor and equipment and paid them. Now they can't charge because the new law as of January 4, 2013 says they can't charge. They were supposed to stop charging this year, but next year it will be illegal for residents to put TV's and electronics out in the trash and it will be illegal for the haulers to pick it up. The law never put any provisions in place to say, how are you going to collect the stuff - nothing unusual. They are getting paid 6 cents a pound. It doesn't pay to even do it. We are trying to figure out some way to continue holding events.

Mr. Johnson said if they just stop collecting, then the companies who have the responsibility to collect the stuff (which is Sony, Phillips, Dell, etc.), then those guys are the ones in trouble. Mr. Dittmar said those guys are the ones who are paying these people 6 cents a pound instead of paying them 20 cents a pound. Mr. Johnson said can't they say they want to be paid 20 cents a pound? Mr. Dittmar said that's what they are trying to negotiate so they give them more money so they can offset their costs. This year alone in the six events, it was 278,000 lbs. of materials. That's not counting the air conditioners, dehumidifiers, refrigerators and freezers. He picked up 53,280 lbs. of that. That's a lot of materials that we pulled out of the way stream. Doing it free is what the people need. That's what he's trying to work out. He already talked to a couple other companies and he went and looked at one of their events that they did. We're trying to put something together real soon so that we know which way we are going. He's held six events this year alone. At Easton High School, that was 93,000 lbs. of just electronics. There is a big demand in this area. We thought that the amount would start going down, but we've gone up. He's been doing these events for five years now. From 99,000 lbs. for the whole total County in 2008 to 278,000 lbs. is a big jump. That's what they are trying to work out and hopefully he'll have an answer Friday from Bonnie's boss. There is another guy, Johnny Johnson, who used to work with AERC years ago. He has opened a place by the airport where he takes the stuff. People can drop it off. That's what they are trying to do is get a drop-off site in the County. His other thought was, is there any way you could have the residents drop it off on one or two days, then AERC would just come and pick it up. There may be a possibility of a small amount of revenue.

Mrs. Yerger said it's mostly their employee costs? Mr. Dittmar said their employees, their forklifts. Mrs. Yerger said they are still going to have to use their forklifts and things like that. Mr. Maxfield said we used to have our Public Works guys work out here use our forklift. Mr. Dittmar said they did. They loaded the truck. They did a fantastic job loading it up. Mr. Johnson said he sees a problem in that somebody who knows what they are doing has to wrap the pallets. If we just have cars coming in here and throwing it on a pile, that's not going to be good. You need someone to wrap them and stack them. He doesn't think the Township is going to pay for someone to do that. Mr. Beardsley said we always did it with our own volunteers from the EAC and a couple of people from the Public Works and if they had someone to supervise the stacking and wrapping, and someone taking the batteries, they would only need three employees here. Mr. Dittmar said even if they didn't want to do that, he does have an electronic scale that he would be glad to bring over.

Mr. Maxfield said the problem with the drop-off idea is they could drop off something that we would not recycle, and then we would be responsible for getting rid of it. They've had some of that in the past like speakers from 1958, tape recorders. Mr. Dittmar said they take tape recorders and speakers because of the magnets and the scrap metal. When he brought the scrap metal guy in, if they had anything they wouldn't take, like a hairdryer or vacuum cleaner, they will take it. They filled that dumpster of scrap metal all the way to the back.

Mr. Johnson said now that they are starting to take TV's, people are bringing in huge heavy pieces of stuff and he's not about to throw that stuff around. Mr. Dittmar said no. Let him see what they can work out and come up with. Mr. Johnson said there were only two guys there last time from the EAC. Mr. Beardsley said right.

Mr. Dittmar said we'll see what AERC says. He's got a couple of other avenues he's looking in to. Not only does he have this one, there are five other sites. Nazareth Intermediate School, they collected 71,000 lbs. That's another very big one. We did 2,700 cars this year in E-cycling alone. That's only a small amount of the County. Johnny has this one by the airport. He is looking at trying to put a site in Northampton County where people could drop it off. He'd be open a couple days during the week and weekend where people just drop off. He takes it; he stacks it; he worries about that. His only concern is people's privacy on their PC's and printers. On a printer, all that information you printed off, he can take that chip and get every bit of information you ever printed.

Mr. Johnson said one of the reasons we went with AERC instead of the guy we used to use was AERC has that certification by the government. Does Jimmy Johnson have that? Mr. Dittmar said he only deals with R2 certified companies, but he himself does not. That's why Mr. Dittmar can't recommend him. He does have a site. Mr. Johnson said you can take it there if you want to. He thought AERC say you can bring it up to their site on Friday's. That's the same thing. Mr. Dittmar said it's on Mitchell Avenue, not far from Queen City Airport. Mr. Johnson said you need some kind of advertising campaign to let the people know they can take it up to the AERC site. Mr. Dittmar said most people say they are not driving it up there. They don't want to go that far and he doesn't blame them. That's why he is putting these events together to get the maximum out of each person. Mr. Maxfield said that's why we have people in South Bethlehem dumping garbage all over the roads. Mr. Dittmar said AERC's address is 2591 Mitchell Avenue, Allentown. It's right off of Emmaus Avenue. Ms. Ray asked if AERC had a website? Mr. Dittmar said it's www.aercrecyclign.com.

Mrs. Yerger said let's pick a Fall date and if we want to add a Spring date, we can. She asked Mr. Dittmar to get back to Diane or herself. The EAC picked October 19, 2013 as Mr. Dittmar has an event on October 12, 2012 which would be the household hazardous waste at the Community College. He said October 19th looked good.

Mr. Dittmar said he's trying to do a household hazardous waste event in the spring too. He asked what date they were looking for in the Spring time. Ms. Ray said we could do it in late April. Mr. Dittmar said April 27th is the last Saturday in April. Easter is March 31st. Mrs. Yerger said we can schedule it April 27th. If it doesn't look like it's feasible, Mr. Dittmar will let them know.

C. UPDATE ON RECYCLING EVENTS – TOM DITTMAR

Mr. Dittmar said the household hazardous event was a nightmare. They had over 2,000 cars show up. At 12:45 pm he had to shut it down and turn away about 200 cars plus. They are trying to plan two events for 2013; one in the spring. The College said he can use it after May 15th, so they are looking at the beginning of June, then again in October. There is a big need. We're talking about events that run about \$60,000.00 to \$80,000.00 for a one-day event. We collected over 127,000 lbs. of household hazardous waste including herbicides, insecticides, and pesticides. They had four 20 yard containers of paints. They were over weighted even. There's a big need and these things we need to continue on, not only the E-Cycling, but the household hazardous waste and go out and look at the municipalities and say what do we need to branch out from there? What more do we need to add for the EAC committees to help them out? That's what he's always looking for feedback. Is there something else we need to be doing? We are getting there with a lot of the other materials and getting it out of the way stream. As of this year, it's the first year we had all 38 municipalities in Northampton County recycling. Some of them have gone to single stream programs now with Green Star. Palmer Township is one, as of May 1, 2013 will be going to single stream automated system. Single stream is where everything goes into one container, your glass, aluminum, plastic, paper, cardboard, as long as it's recyclable. They are going to be getting paid for their recyclables. They negotiated some really strong contracts for their landfill disposal costs. Hopefully they are going to bring their recyclables in the 40% to 50% range. He did an estimate of Northampton County, all the municipalities, and we're averaging 10% all across the board. That's sad in a recycling rate for the county. Walnutport is going to a single stream program. North Catasauqua is looking into the single stream also. Mrs. Yerger said they do it in Doylestown also. Mr. Dittmar said the County wasn't recycling five years ago and this last year he did 51 tons that they recycled and got \$10.00 a ton for the materials, so they avoided the \$65.00 per ton for disposal at the landfill and brought in revenue. There's a lot more. He needs each one of the municipalities to say they can do this. He'll be looking to a County-wide EAC committee where they can get together and share the information. There's a lot more we can all do together.

Mr. Maxfield said there is a regional EAC network already which they can tap into. He thinks the class he teaches at Bethlehem Catholic, the Eco Club co-moderator gave Mr. Dittmar a call. They have a small workforce of kids that if at any time during the school year you need help, they can get about 10, 15, 30 kids. They have over 200 kids in their Eco Club in school. They draw from a pretty large area. They can get kids wherever you need them to be.

Mr. Dittmar said he asked the DEP, can we use them to volunteers to empty out cars for household hazardous waste as most of the material is not but paints. In Jersey, he knows it requires an hour of hazmat and chemical handling training. The DEP said they didn't know. He would prefer, if we could, we could get more done with less. Even if he went and used the Community Service people, but yet, they need to have some hazmat training. Our DEP does not know what to say. Mr. Maxfield said in the past when they have done clean-ups, and if they run into anything that they think is questionable, they don't touch it. They come to us and it is taken care of. We caution them about sharps and things like that. They were really, really good about it. If we had any time of approved course, they could teach it at the high school before they were to do that. The kids are dying for something to do. If Mr. Dittmar finds anything, please let Mr. Maxfield know. If you have any need from now until May, they are ready to go. Mr. Dittmar said the course we need to go is getting the kids involved as they are the future. If we can educate them quicker and easier, they get to teach the parents.

Mr. Johnson said in Bethlehem, they have that recycling program on Illicks Mill Road which has been going on for years. He hears they make money. Wouldn't that be something to encourage other municipalities to do? Mr. Dittmar said yes, they make money. If you have a volume of material coming in, number one you have to put in a recycling center. You have to man that recycling center and you have to train your people. The setup for paper and cardboard, you have to put in a compactor of some kind. You are still going to pay that transportation cost, if the market is high enough, Tom Marshall can do that as he's pulling in large volumes. It helps your local businesses too. Mr. Johnson asked if that was the kind of facility Mr. Dittmar was thinking of getting the County to establish? Mr. Dittmar said he wanted to start out first for the E-cycling for electronics, a building where it's opened on Thursday through Saturday where people can bring electronics there. Berks County opened up an E-cycling site for their electronics. They are doing 17,000 lbs. a week of electronics. They are bringing in about \$400 because AERC is coming in and loading it up, going out and they are paying them, but does that offset the building cost, the electricity, the labor, insurance, liability cost? No. It does get the materials out of the way stream and it reduces their cost by bringing in a small amount.

Mr. Johnson said what about our trash collector who takes recyclables, what do they do with it? How do they make money with it? They charge us a monthly fee. Mr. Dittmar said it all depends which hauler it is. Some haulers go to Green Star, they make money from Green Star. Waste Management does it. When commodities are separated, the value is higher as you don't have to do source separation. When you go to a place like Green Star, which they single stream, you bring in a larger volume, but you do more source separating so there's a cost there because of the automation of the equipment. You are going to bring in more volume. You are going to recycle more. Some people tend to put trash in the items when you do single stream versus sort separation. Mr. Johnson said you think there's already a organization or a system that's been established to take care of tin cans, paper and glass, that sort of stuff. The county doesn't have to get involved with that. Mr. Dittmar said there are some counties that run the recycling center for their whole county. They do the pick-ups and everything. We're not going to get there. Each municipality has their own programs in place with their waste haulers right now. There are items that are above and beyond that like the electronics and household hazardous waste. We need to find a good avenue because it's not cost-effective for each individual municipality to run a household hazardous waste event, to run an E-cycling event. We need to centralize that. Just like yard waste, in Jersey, their county runs yard waste facilities. We do not have that here and you will not see it happening here. Northampton County, if you looked at the demographics, it's so spread out that the northern areas just say they will dump it in their backyards as they have five acres where you get into the larger population, they need an area for yard waste, especially after this year and last years' storm. Mr. Maxfield said Hellertown has street pick-up, but LST can't afford to do it. Mr. Johnson said we also have our own composting center. Mr. Maxfield said in order to get certain grants, we have to have that yard waste pickup and a no burn order. Mr. Dittmar said that is a nightmare to get passed as in a lot of areas you have to have in your ordinance there is a waste collection and it's mandatory for everyone to be involved in the collection or have some documentation that their waste is being collected. What it's doing is having people just dump it out in their back yard which has happened in many areas for years. There are parts of Northampton County who went through a nightmare to get those ordinances passed. Bushkill Township is having problems right now with some of it. Mr. Maxfield said we looked at it in the past. Mr. Dittmar said anyone who didn't have the program would not get a 904 grant.

Mr. Dittmar said keep him on board and he will let you know what's going on. Hopefully he can work out a solution and if not, he will find another company who will be glad to. He told AERC that he's even willing to go to John Stoffa and say if there's a setup fee for them to pick it up, take it out of Mr. Dittmar's budget, so we'll see what happens, but if it's \$10,000.00 forget that.

Mr. Johnson said these people can't sell TV's in PA if they don't have as much as they sell, it has to be picked up every year. They have to pay someone like AERC do it. Mr. Dittmar said a company out of NY that did an event at the Community College and they lost two trailers of stuff. They did it with double click and couldn't find them for a month and a half. What's happening with people's privacy and security? Re-cycle doesn't want to come back into PA as they said there's no money to be made. They are only getting paid 6 cents a pound. The state never got involved with it. They passed the law but never put a provision in place on how to collect it. This is why they are trying to work with the municipalities. It would be nice for the landfills to get involved. The landfill does recyclables, but doesn't have to do electronics.

Mr. Maxfield said it would be nice to put a facility in our Enterprise Zone. If you had a landowner who wanted to sell their land, and they all have nice access. It's in LST and eventually goes to Bethlehem around the corner. It picks up again when you go up to Skyline Drive. Somewhere on Applebutter Road would be interesting. He will look into that.

Mr. Dittmar said do you think a tire collection program in the county would make sense? Mrs. Yerger said yes. Mr. Dittmar said he's tossing it back and forth. We would have to charge \$1.00 to \$2.00 a tire. He'd need a labor force to stack a trailer. He'll get back to the EAC on this.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 MINUTES

Mr. Johnson said page 3, line 17, where it says Marine Gray, it should say **marine grade**. On page 4, line 23, toward the end of the sentence, there's a "t" missing, it should be **the**.

MOTION BY: Mr. Beardsley moved for approval of the September 11, 2012 minutes.

SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Absent – Colin Guerra & Dru Germanoski)

VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – None

VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT

- Mr. Boos said the Borough Public Works Department has gone to do the view shed clearings for signage for the Hellertown marsh, so all that needs to be done is to install the standards and mount the signs on them. We have some work to do as far as getting the signs adjusted to fit the standards, but it's not going to be a problem. Hopefully, they'll be in shortly.

IX. NON-AGENDA ITEM

- Mr. Beardsley said he noticed the bucket out in the hallway with the light bulbs was full. Mrs. Yerger asked Diane to let Leslie know that it's full.
- Mr. Maxfield asked if we do a household battery collection out there? Diane said no. Mr. Maxfield said that might be something we should make available to the public and put a container out by the light bulbs.
- Mrs. Yerger said the Police in Hellertown did a prescription drug collection as so did LST Police. Diane said we had a take-back in September. Mrs. Yerger said in Springfield, they have like a one-way vending machine, which sucks them in. You can drop them off at their Town Hall anytime. It's automatically locked in. They have it in the foyer where you have the light bulbs. She thinks there's a minimal cost for it. When you do it once a year, it's kind of tough. If Springfield can afford it, she's sure LST can and something we may want to look into. Rich Schilling would be more than happy to tell you where he got it from and then the police come and clean it out once a

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month. Mr. Maxfield said since the police are right next door and you have that little foyer you can go into, that may work. Mrs. Yerger said the citizens use it a lot. An email will be sent to Rich to get a cost on it and then report back in December. It makes it more convenient to do than a one day thing.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for adjournment. The time was 8:05 P.M.

SECOND BY: Mr. Beardsley

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

Sandra Yerger, Chair