

I. **OPENING**

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township Council was called to order on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:00 P.M., at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

ROLL CALL: Present – Chairman, Sandra Yerger; Vice Chairman, Tom Maxfield; Allan Johnson, Ted Beardsley, Haz Hijazi, Dennis Aranyos, Glenn Clouser, Terry Boos, Hellertown Representative; and Rick Tralies, Boucher & James. Absent: Bob Davis, Laura Ray, Tom McCormick and Glenn Kaye

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. **NEW BUSINESS**

<p>Laura Ray arrived. The time was 7:06 PM.</p>
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A. **IESI BASIN 7 PIPE**

Mrs. Yerger said we were asked to review it, but none of the EAC members have not received any information until this moment. Haz Hijazi has reviewed some of it, but not the letters that came in today. He will give a scenario of what's going on at the landfill. If we can take all this information home and we'll talk about it on January 8.

Mr. Hijazi said he has been on the Landfill Committee for a short period of time, and now he is having some understanding of some of the issues. This is an ongoing project that has been going on. The two issues of concern right now are the storm water management from an area that the storm water is being collected on top of the landfill and where that water is going to go to. They had several options and are working with DEP and the township. They are looking for support from the township so they can go to DEP with this selected alternative. The other issue of lesser importance is the relocation of the recycling area. They have submitted some plans of how they are handling both situations. The recycling area has been moved up on the landfill, the notch, where as you go to the entrance, you make a right hand turn and go up a distance. Some of the concerns from the Township and engineers for the location of the recycling area may be a little bit intimidating, some safety issues, may not meet all the requirements of the township. Hanover Engineering prepared a letter with some of these comments to the landfill. Some issues of more importance are what to do with the storm water that is being collected at the top. The landfill had three options. One was to direct the storm water north over the steep slopes down to the river, and that has from the township, not been desirable, plus it has more impact as it goes through sensitive areas. The other two alternatives left were they would take a pipe underneath an area where it will be filled with waste, or route it on a longer distance on the western part. The landfill would like to go with the pipe which has some challenges. The township and landfill engineer and Boucher & James reviewed the proposal and have some comments. The landfill is supposed to review the comments and come back to us and then go to DEP with the review process. From his recollection, some of the concerns raised from the Landfill Committee and the engineers were if we go with the pipe underneath the landfill, what mechanisms would the landfill provide in terms of fixing problems down the road, how would they handle the potential that the new pipe would become a new conduit if there was a leak in the liner. The engineers raised these concerns. Our role is to take a look at the letters and see if the EAC has any concerns.

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Mrs. Yerger said take the five letters along home and look at them and come back if you have any concerns at the January 8 meeting. They are asking us to give them feedback. She'll bring maps along to that meeting for everyone to look at. The response letters just came today in the mail.

MOTION BY: Mr. Hijazi moved to table this agenda item until the January 8 meeting.
SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield
ROLL CALL: All in Favor: Yes
Opposed: None

B. DYER LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT

Mrs. Yerger said this just came through today. We're under a much tighter time crunch with this. EAC members looked over the proposed conservation agreement. This is along the Saucon Creek by the Old Mill Bridge. The Dyer's are the current owners, which is in a trust. They will do a three lot subdivision between Dyer and his two neighbors and each take 10-12 acres and add on to their existing tracts. The problem with this is Dyer and the landowners are trying to have this all settled and signed by December 31, 2007. The one document we are missing is baseline, the evaluation that a biologist does and goes to the property and records all of the environmental assets or detriments of the property and exactly what they plan on preserving on the property and the natural resources. We don't have that document.

Mrs. Yerger said we need to provide comments on this. Mr. Maxfield said the subdivision is on Council agenda tomorrow night. Mrs. Yerger said a lot of this is legal information not pertaining to us. The lack of the baseline and the second one, on page 6, the word is supposed to be lawn, not long. The concern is we are going to be providing conservation easements on 40 acres of lawn.

Mr. Maxfield said page 6, 4.03(v), it says "except with the wet areas, cutting trees for use on the property not to exceed 20 cords per year. It doesn't say they won't sell it. Mr. Hijazi said there are different interpretations. Mr. Maxfield said since it's not applicable, let's ask them to delete that whole line. Mrs. Yerger said even if we would allow them to cut the trees, what constitutes a "wet" area. Mr. Hijazi said you are not clarifying if you remove it, does that mean they can cut the trees. Mr. Maxfield said he'd like to put language in the document that they can't cut the trees at all. Mrs. Yerger said it was farmed at one time, and they didn't want to eliminate the possibility of leasing it out. Then it expanded out to turf or lawn. Turf or lawn has zero conservation. We might want to get rid of those words. The other words, "pasture, grazing use, and meadow" have conservation use. Mr. Johnson said in addition to wet areas, we should put in riparian buffers. Mr. Maxfield said we should have no lumbering on there at all.

Mr. Boos said normally not to exceed 20 cords per year, that would be personal use. If you are running a wood working shop and work with wood, five to six cords a year is not a lot for the year. Twenty cords is quite a huge amount. A cord is 4x4x8, or 128 cubic feet, which would fill up a pick up truck.

Mr. Maxfield said he'd rather have a forest management plan rather than the ability for them to lumber. Mr. Hijazi said we are not attorney's, we are an EAC. We should pass this to our attorney's to look at it and tell them the concerns we have that highlights our bigger objective. Mr. Maxfield said from an EAC standpoint, 4.03 what is permitted within the standard protection area is all that we are concerned about. Why don't we come up with what we do want permitted, what we don't want permitted.

Recommendations from the EAC were:

1. Remove No. 4.03 (b) (v), no timbering, no lumbering under the conservation easement
2. Exclude turf and lawn – (take out those words) of Section 4.03(c)(i)

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3. We are okay with agricultural use in the non riparian area (100 feet)
4. Six (vi) is okay
5. Seven (vii) is okay
6. Ask the solicitor, Linc Treadwell, to look over and review

MOTION BY: Ms. Ray moved for recommendations as stated above.

SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield

ROLL CALL: All in Favor: Yes
Opposed: None

III. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. KAZAN MINOR SUBDIVISION

Mrs. Yerger showed the site plan to EAC members. She said it's a minor subdivision on Lower Saucon Road. They are trying to take it and divide it into two lots. Mr. Tralies said he doesn't know all of the in-depth details. He went over the site plan with the EAC members. He showed the existing buildings and driveways and the two lots. Lot one is 11.46 acres and Lot 2 is the existing house, well and septic. They are proposing to combine the big lot in the triangle and subdivide a chunk to the existing dwelling. He said the plan is very difficult to read. There are areas of woodlands and steep slopes. Environmentally, it is what it is. There are lots of steep slopes and to put a home there, they will have to disturb the steep slopes. Mrs. Yerger said it looks like the driveway is a fair distance or can they move the house closer to the road. Mr. Tralies said he didn't know if they could move the home closer to the road, but they might be able to move the house closer to the north of the slope.

Recommendations from the EAC are:

1. Ask them to move the house site to the north of the steep slopes to reduce impervious cover of the driveway and to reduce the disturbance of the steep slopes

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for approval of the recommendation as stated above.

SECOND BY: Mrs. Yerger

ROLL CALL: All in Favor: Yes
Opposed: None

IV. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

Page 2 of 7, line 32, Mr. Maxfield said what? Mr. Maxfield said add "private owner". Page 5 of 7, line 16, add property "value". Page 5 of 7, line 45 "on the property, north on the six lots". Page 4, line 50, "Mr." McCormick, not "Ms." McCormick.

MOTION BY: Mr. Clouser moved for approval of the November 13, 2007 minutes, with corrections.

SECOND BY: Mr. Johnson

ROLL CALL: All in Favor: Yes
Opposed: None
Abstained: Mr. Hijazi (He wasn't at the last meeting)

V. UPDATES/REPORTS

OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. Beardsley said they met with Joe Dravec. They had a letter drafted which Council approved which said:

1. All six parcels must be included in the purchase
2. We'd need a right of way to get through the property
3. We wanted to talk about the conservation easement over the lot in the front he owns, and we didn't want 15 houses put in
4. Recommended that Parks and Rec look at it and evaluate it.

We asked him to sign a copy of the letter and we'd go to the next step which would be to go to the Parks & Rec. Board. He signed the letter. We will also get Laura Baird out to see the property. Mr. Dravec would like to subdivide a couple of the lots across the street. He said that will be his retirement. We have to see what we'd like and see what he has left over. It's about 36 acres.

Mr. Maxfield said how do you address hunting with properties that are out in the sticks? Are we going to permit hunting on this area? It's a relatively long hunting season. Mr. Beardsley said people that might be using this property during hunting season should be made aware that there may be a danger, and they have to be careful. Mr. Johnson said could post signs on the perimeter. How do you handle that where you or I live? You just hope that no one shoots on to your property. We have a rule that no target may be in 450 feet of an existing dwelling, which puts a pretty good perimeter on it. Anyone that goes out there, should definitely understand the risks. Mr. Maxfield said we need the deer control. Mrs. Yerger said do you want to make an official request to Council. Mr. Beardsley will set it up. Mr. Maxfield said he wants to get a map so they can draw where everything is.

Mr. Beardsley said the letter went out to everyone with ten acres or more, and they got two letters back so far.

VI. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. Boos said last night at Borough Council meeting, Gar Davidson made a presentation about purchasing Borough Park property. It is still going to be going back and forth between the Borough and Lower Saucon Authority. Things are going to progress slowly and it will just take some time.
- Mrs. Yerger said as an FYI, she had a paper on a seminar about the watershed on Black River Road.
- Laura Ray said she likes the letters they got in the packet tonight.
- Laura Ray said at the last meeting, Allan Johnson brought up the idea of gardening at the Polk Valley Park and she'd like to pursue that. Maybe something could be put in the newsletter to poll people to see if there is any interest. Mrs. Yerger said she doesn't know who would manage it. Mr. Johnson said there are a lot of details to work out. First see if Council is willing to set aside an area, and see what the interest is. Mrs. Yerger said that area is filled with deer. Mr. Johnson said there are two types of community gardening. One is where ten people get together and do the gardening and the other is where one family gets a plot. Mr. Maxfield said if you are going to propose something like that, Parks and Rec wanted another baseball field. Ms. Ray said it doesn't look like a lot of parking. Mrs. Yerger said the problem with the sports are they are going all year round and they are starting at age five. Her suggestion would be to go to a Parks and Rec meeting and see if there is interest there and see if they would support it. Mrs. Yerger said it's a parks issue,

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not an environmental issue. Mr. Boos said it could be, if there are certain types of chemicals involved. Mrs. Yerger said Parks and Recs may like the idea. Mr. Johnson and Ms. Ray will do some research and go to the next Parks and Rec meeting and see if there is interest in the gardening. Mr. Beardsley said his cousin may be able to give them some information on it also as she was involved with community gardening. Mrs. Yerger suggested talking to the Community Center, there may be some older people who may want to get involved.

- Mr. Maxfield said we need to resolve what we want to do with the Native Plant Garden. Hans has been putting in a lot of time. We need to make this garden presentable to the public. Mr. Tralies suggested getting someone from the E House. Mr. Maxfield will give them a call. Mrs. Yerger said the E House sent two reports around in the last nine months. Mr. Hijazi said is there any benefit with this E House? Mrs. Yerger said it was the Blair House, and was approached by this group that needed a structure and they wanted to demonstrate, through grants, a house that would be totally energy efficient. They've laid out plans and are giving progress reports, but nothing physical was done to the house. The garden was supposed to be a demonstration garden for residents so they could see benefits of native plants. Mr. Hijazi said we are failing to maintain the garden and he's not sure if any resident is aware of the garden. Mrs. Yerger said we did not publicize it because we were waiting for it to flourish on its own. Mr. Maxfield said at this point, he'd rather cut it into four sections and let it fill up rather than the little things they have there now. Mr. Hijazi said make it maintenance free. Mrs. Yerger said give it some thought and when we do our goals next year, we could put the garden in there. Mr. Johnson said with the E House, it was to create a demonstration house so people could see how energy conservation systems and equipment operate and to see whether it would be something they could use at home. A demonstration house for energy efficiency and sustainability. It's been going on for about a year now. They have a Sub Committee that works on it. There are a lot of contractors in the area who are interested in this. The overall idea is to provide electricity and heating without going outside. Whether they accomplished that goal, he's not sure of.
- Mrs. Yerger said January 8 is our next meeting. Please review IESI information as we need to come back with a recommendation.
- Mrs. Yerger said everyone have Happy Holidays.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Mr. Beardsley moved to adjourn. The time was 8:45 PM.
SECOND BY: Mr. Maxfield
ROLL CALL: All in Favor: Yes
Opposed: None