

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., with Thomas Carocci, presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members:** Thomas Carocci, Chair; Cindy Oatis, Vice Chair; Sandra Yerger, Ann Spirk, and Laura Ray (arrived at 6:31 p.m.); **Associate Members:** Jennifer Helton, Kathy Pichel McGovern and Kaitlyn O'Connor Sommer; **Staff:** Carol Schneider. **Absent: Members:** Dru Germanoski & Allan Johnson; **Associate Members:** Glenn Kaye.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Tom said they did not meet in Executive Session.

**II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**A. PROPERTY UPDATES**

Tom said Carol provided him with a list of the preserved properties. Carol will email the list out tomorrow. Tom said it's not really a property update, but parcels that have already been acquired. Laura asked if there were any pending. Carol said she didn't work on this, Stacy did and it took a lot of research. Carol didn't even get a chance to look at the list.

Jennifer said she thought about six months ago there was one property that was with a lawyer. Sandy said there was one. They met with the property owner, they talked about the process and they were taking it back to their attorney but the Township hasn't heard back from them. Tom and Carol said they didn't recall there were any pending. Tom said he's pretty sure this is accurate and Carol should thank Stacy.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. SET A DATE FOR ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP (APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> – JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>)**

Kathy said they set up a litter brigade today through PPA Beautiful, so this is in addition to the Township's adopt-a-road clean-up. It was not to replace this one and she set it up for April 1<sup>st</sup>. You have to publicize it and PPA Beautiful will give you bags, gloves, and the trash can go to the landfill for free. Whoever wants to help her pick up trash, let her know.

Tom said we do Reading Road and we've done it for years and it's usually done on a Saturday, twice a year. The EAC decided to do the adopt-a-road clean-up on Saturday, April 15 at 9:00 a.m. and they will meet at the bridge. Kaitlyn said she can pick up the materials at the Township on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and drop them off on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. She will check her calendar and email Carol the times of pick-up and drop-off.

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None**

**V. UPDATES/REPORTS**

**A. ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF NICHOLAS LYNN**

Tom said the Township received a resignation from Nicholas Lynn. At the last meeting it was discussed that staff would contact him to see if he was still interested. Carol did contact him and he said he is working several jobs and just didn't have time anymore. She explained we have people that would be interested and that help is needed for different events and he was understanding.

**MOTION BY:** Tom moved to accept the resignation of Nicholas Lynn.

**SECOND BY:** Sandy

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

Tom asked if the Manager will advertise this position on the Township website and solicit applications. This is for an Associate Member, a non-voting member. Carol said yes.

Cindy said regarding the by-laws, with respect to nominating someone, last time we nominated Kaitlyn. Laura said this isn't a voting position. Kaitlyn asked if there are two openings. Tom said just this one.

**B. UPDATE 2023 EAC CONTACT LIST**

Carol said everyone can look it over the list and make any corrections. Tom said if you do not want to be on the list, we can take your name off.

Carol said this is for internal use only, but if everyone is in agreement, she can send it just to the EAC members so everyone has that information. Kaitlyn said if the weather isn't good on clean-up day, and if the numbers are good on the list, she'll just reach out to everyone. Last time they just moved it to Sunday. Tom said if you have any corrections, please give them to Carol and also let her know if you don't want to be on the list.

**VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**A. ELECTRONIC RECYCLING SPRING EVENT FOR APRIL 22, 2023 (SHARED WITH UPPER SAUCON)**

Carol said everything is set up, she's just waiting for the flyer as they asked for the Township's information. She gave them that information, so she's waiting for the update and she will post it everywhere – Facebook, Constant Contact, the spring newsletter and the website. She said Patrick was concerned in the past of putting the information out too soon, so he didn't want to put it out until a month before.

**B. SECURE FALL ELECTRONIC RECYCLING DATE WITH CLEAN EARTH FOR 10/14/23 (SHARED WITH UPT) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EVENT**

Carol said for this one, we are just swapping out the work. We will need volunteers for this one. The time will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Laura said somewhere we had November 11<sup>th</sup> for the date. Carol said that was discussed last month and we took that off because of Veteran's Day and switched it to October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Cindy said that is Earth Day and if we're going to be doing stuff, that would be a good time to give out flyers while they're sitting in cars, or any information, on any of our events, they can share it.

Tom said we will staff this one in the fall and UST will staff the spring one. All residents from LST and UST can go. If you are going to limit these events to just Township residents, that information should be on the flyer.

**C. EDUCATIONAL IDEAS FOR RESIDENTS (MS4, RAIN GARDEN, RAIN BARRELS)**

Tom said if people are sitting in their cars, flyers can be passed out for the rain garden, rain barrels, etc. depending on the dates.

Jennifer talked to the Saucon Creek Watershed and they would be more than happy to host the rain barrel workshop. Sandy asked if they had any dates? Jennifer said they have a meeting Thursday. She asked if there is a good time to have it. Kaitlyn said she likes to have them in the spring as she'd like to have it when she puts her garden in, so spring would be a good time. Jennifer said they are going to try to find out if they can get donations for these barrels. She will get back to Sandy or Carol to let them know the date and time. The problem is the timing if you are going to send a letter out. She asked when is the newsletter going out? Carol said the newsletter is in the final stages right now but contact through Facebook, Constant Contact and the website will also get the information out. They did Movies in the Park with Facebook, Constant Contact and the website and it worked out very well.

Laura asked how many people are on the list. Carol said it depends with Constant Contact as the resident has to pick what list they want to be on, and the EAC has a list, and there's also General Interest. She'll have to take a look. Jennifer will get back with the information after their meeting on Thursday.

Kathy said there's a lot of things out there for education, like How to Keep Your Community Clean which is on the PPA Beautiful. We can put in our newsletter from the EAC. It's not actually an event. There's a lot of information out there for things you can do to be clean. Hellertown Borough hosted a Climate Action Plan which they put out to educate the public. We are aware and we are trying to do the best we can. It's just a thought.

Tom said the spring newsletter went out already, but there will be a summer one if you have dates on these events. Carol said she's not sure if there is a summer one, but there's definitely a fall and winter. Anyone can email Carol with any information they have for anything they want in the newsletter. Kathy said she will send her a proposal of what she wants to put in the newsletter and we can share it.

Cindy said the idea being you can put certain things in the spring, certain things in the summer, certain things in the fall geared to that topic and other topics like MS4. Carol said there's an MS4 article going in the spring newsletter.

Laura said at the last meeting, she was going to look into Composting Workshops. She doesn't see anything happening with the Penn State extension, but she did reach out to PA Resources Council, PRC, and she talked to a woman there a couple times and they do workshops and also do webinars. Laura said they would prefer to have a real in-person thing. They are down in Media, PA but the contact said they would actually truck up the bins for us and do a workshop here for us. The cost is \$70.00 for a single person or \$75.00 for a household. You get one bin, it's the large 82-gallon earth machine. On-line they are like \$120.00 and more.

Laura said she didn't know if the Township could help subsidize families with that amount and make it more affordable. It's a one-hour workshop. They can bring up a maximum of 25 bins they can fit in their truck. The contact told Laura some dates she was not available, but she was actually available on Earth Day. Laura said that was pretty quick to get in our agenda. You can also do the registration and payment right on their website. It also includes a class of training. The contact was all excited about coming here.

Cindy said every year we think no one is going to come but we always get a good turnout at them. Laura said we didn't do it since 2002 with Deb Ross. Do we want to pick a date or think about a date? Sandy asked if we needed staff here. Laura said we should have somebody here, but doesn't think staff has to be here. The contact can't do April 1<sup>st</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, May 13<sup>th</sup> or May 20<sup>th</sup>. We would need a little time to promote it to get the word out. Carol said do they deliver the day of? Laura said yes, the contact would be bringing the bins herself. Laura suggested June 3<sup>rd</sup> so she will email the contact and copy everyone, then you can also see the website.

Jennifer said she was at the Watershed meeting and learned a lot about MS4 and rain gardens and things to plant. There's a lot of information out there. Sandy asked with the rain gardens, did they recommend native plants only? Jennifer said they did as there's a benefit to that and they also talked about rain gardens are really dry as there's a misconception and the importance of using sedge grass. It was very detailed very helpful and talked about the value of trees and the canopy. They had a lot of good ideas. Sandy asked if they talked about plant sales. Jennifer said they did at the Farmer's Market. Sandy said she can check with the nursery that's up the line. Jennifer said let her check as they work with a gentleman that's part of it and he has the plugs. Sandy said from the nursery they used to get slightly bigger plants. Jennifer said they are not little, you are right.

**D. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2023 MINUTES**

Laura said she found a missing word, page 2, line 53, add "voting" member.

**MOTION BY:** Tom moved for approval of the January 10, 2023 minutes, with correction.  
**SECOND BY:** Sandy  
**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**E. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023 MINUTES**

Laura said on all the four roll call votes, they are all 6-0 but it should be 5-0 as Sandy was also not here. On page 5, line 5, where it said she said something, it was Jennifer.

**MOTION BY:** Tom moved for approval of the February 14, 2023 minutes, with corrections.

**SECOND BY:** Sandy

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- Mark Ozimek said this is how you use a microphone so everybody understands that as he sits in the audience and can't hear anything. The people that are out in wonderland really don't hear you because it doesn't pick you up at all. His question is about the dump, have any of you come up with any environmental interesting subjects about our lovely Bethlehem Landfill. That's his question. Laura said there were some comments for the Landfill Committee, but she's not sure when they are meeting. Carol said she believes that's April.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Tom moved for adjournment. The time was 7:10 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Sandy

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0

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Thomas Carocci, Chair