

I.

A. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6:32 p.m. with Dru Germanoski, presiding.

B. **ROLL CALL:** **Members:** Dru Germanoski, Allan Johnson, Cheyenne Reiman, Kathy Pichel McGovern, Chad Heimbecker, Jennifer Helton & Laura Ray (arrived at 6:37 p.m.); **Associate Members:** Janine Bohnam, Russell Sutton & Winfield Clark; **Staff:** Carol Schneider; **Jr. Council:** Harry Vicic; **Guests:** Diane Hollowell.

C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** – None

E. **JUNIOR COUNCIL - HARRY VICIC**

Dru Germanoski

We had no executive session, and the next agenda item is to welcome Harrison Vicic back to our committee, and just in case, this isn't fresh in our memory. This will be Harry's second year participating in the Junior Council program on EAC. He's lived in the township since he was three years old, and feels it is a privilege to live here. The community spirit, amazing quality of life and the Township's forward-looking approach, are qualities about Lower Saucon Township that have resonated with him and are what he loves most. Harry's a senior at Moravian Academy and is founder and co-president of the finance and economics club, a team member and co-captain of the varsity boy's tennis team, second chair cellist in the school's orchestra, co-president of the Asian student association and a National Merit semifinalist. He's an advocate and mentor for cochlear implant candidates through Advanced Bionics, an ambassador and member of the newly formed cochlear implant support group in the Lehigh Valley. Harry's grateful for the opportunity to support this community and Township, and looks forward to continuing to work with EAC members this year. So, welcome back, Harry. I guess the bad news is you're a senior, so we will be losing you, at any rate, good to have you here.

II. **OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Dru Germanoski

Okay, moving forward with the agenda, open space subcommittee. A couple of things to report. So, you may recall, at the last meeting, there was a conversation about the three properties we recommended to council to include in open space. One of the holdups was that when the individual supplied, they didn't make clear if there were going to be any restricted use areas that they wanted to or envelopes that they wanted to keep out of open space, or what exactly of the parcel they wanted to submit to open space. It was a strange month, and so far, as I emailed the three people multiple times, the first property that we scored, I don't have the numbers right in front of me. I think it might have been 2024-01, but he was, he was reasonably quick in responding. I passed that information on to the township manager, and then, literally I heard from the other two were groups of people. So, I sent emails to multiple people, which I thought would elicit a response, and maybe it had the opposite effect, and each person assumed someone else was going to respond. So, I had to push the buttons a few times. What I learned yesterday was one property they are going to perhaps put an envelope of two acres to allow a friend to buy and the property and build a house there, and so he's meeting with the developer over the next I guess tomorrow is the day now and then he'll delineate that, and that'll get forwarded to the township manager. And then the other individuals you might recall this place was the place we had the quick downpour on us when we were there. They want to put the entire property in open space. So, I called Cathy today, but we went back and forth. Cathy Gorman, the township manager, we didn't connect today, so I'll pass that information on to her tomorrow, and then things we should be able to move forward so no new applicants. Cathy did draw my attention to a person who they think might be coming forward with a reasonably substantial parcel of land to consider, but that hasn't come to fruition yet. So, that was the open space report.

III. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. Review of H & I Strauss Avenue Reverse Minor Subdivision #MIN 01-24

Dru Germanoski

Developer items, we have two developer items. One was the review of the H & I Strauss Avenue, reverse minor subdivision. Let the record show Carol that Laura Ray arrived at 6:37 p.m., and that first development item was one of removing a property line. So, I don't believe there to be any environmental issues with that. If anybody has anything, this is the time to say something about it.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I couldn't see it. So, is that? Is that what it is?

Dru Germanoski

Or it must be this one here.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

That one? and it's just moving.

Jennifer Helton

It's combining the two lots. There's two.

Allan Johnson

Lights are side by side. Yeah, there's no water.

Jennifer Helton

Yeah, there's nothing.

Allan Johnson

So, if there's any trees on them, it'll still be part of the bigger one.

Jennifer Helton

So, it's a good thing. And it's right over here, the winery, Black River, somewhere around there.

Chad Heimbecker

Oh, I've been wanting to go there.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

We had a winery.

Jennifer Helton

It's right there.

Chad Heimbecker

Music looks pretty good.

Winfield Clark

I've driven by it.

Dru Germanoski

Okay, if there are no issues with that, we can move to the other property.

B. Review of St. Luke's Medical Office P/F Land Development #LS 02-24

Dru Germanoski

Okay, if there are no issues with that, we can move to the other property, which is a more substantial piece of property, and it's actually a development proposal. I'm assuming everybody was able to see the documents that came with the call to meeting there. There are larger scale front view maps here, if anyone wants to look at them. And this particular development project is on Leithsville Road. It's directly across Leithsville Road from the giant supermarket, and the parcel is a triangular piece, so that whole piece of real estate bounded by roads on each of the three sides, and that's for a medical office development, and the property is zoned for that type of use, there are no as far as I saw when I read through here, there were no variances requested. So having said that, I opened the floor for conversation about that particular development proposal.

Allan Johnson

Well, one question I had was, they showed on the drawings ways to fix a sinkhole, right? And did you look at these types of soils that they have on that property? Is any of that in the limestone?

Dru Germanoski

I didn't look at the at the soils themselves, but I would, my educated guess, would be to say they're Washington silt loams, because it's carbonate rocks, and usually it's Washington soil series that sits on carbonate rocks.

Allan Johnson

CIB, I think was one of them.

Dru Germanoski

Okay? That might be a duffield and a W, so and a W, something that w is most likely to Washington. You say they are on the they're on limestone that site, that site is on carbonate rocks entirely, yes, and that's why they have the sinkhole repair plans. And notice that they had, I think there were, there were at least three different approaches to repairing any there were no identifiable sinkholes on the property. Those are standard contingency plans to say, should we encounter a sinkhole, here's the engineering approach we will take to stabilize it. And I would say this, that each of the three designs that they presented are standard practice considered to be acceptable ways of addressing sinkholes. This is an interesting it's an interesting problem because there are sort of schools of thought. There are some engineers and geologists that prefer the reverse graded fill, which is one they showed. In each case, they plug the so-called throat, where you get down to bedrock, and they plug it, usually with cobbles, boulders or even concrete pieces that are large enough that they can't pass through the throat. So, in essence, they jam the throat up with that coarse material. If they want to maintain infiltration of water to groundwater, they reverse grade it and go from coarse to finer, selectively, finer, finer, finer up to the surface to allow water to pass through. In other cases, the first, I think it was the first I could scroll down here, but I think it was the first mechanism or procedure they used for remediating was for an impervious, impervious surface, where they actually use flights of clay layers that were compacted and then that would disallow water to infiltrate. Sometimes that's used when they're concerned about getting more water moving into the subsurface and maybe mobilizing other material at depth. And in many cases, it is. It is literally a preference of one engineering firm versus another. Some like their graded fill, some prefer putting concrete in and the finer grain material. And I would say all of these things can work well, but there are examples out there of problems if you drive Easton Road over the last six months or so, there's a sinkhole there that has an orange fence around it, and that's been filled in at least twice, and it's active again, across from the across from the warehouses, basically. So, if you see the orange. It might be overly conservative on my part, but if there's no one coming the other way, and I'm in that lane, I swerve over the middle of the lane because I don't want to be the car that breaks the camel's back, because it's working its way towards the road. So anyway, these are, these are all viable ways of trying to repair sinkhole should we develop? And it's a requirement to have those contingency plans when you're developing on carbonate rocks.

Allan Johnson

The other thing that that I wanted to mention was I heard or something, you said, or something or other, that there's concerns about having unlocked infiltration on a lot where that's in their carbonate territory, and that's what they plan to do here, is have an on lot, pit to put the stormwater into.

Dru Germanoski

That is, if they if it's designed properly, if they evaluate single potential under it, then the advantage of doing that is, you're not generating runoff to the surface runoff. The other advantage is you are allowing for groundwater recharge. The assumption would be right now, I think there's one house on that property. I Google Earth it, and there's only one building there, but otherwise it's basically grass and trees and shrubs. So, the assumption would be that that piece of real estate does experience groundwater recharge whenever it rains. And so, I imagine what they're saying is, well, let's maintain groundwater recharge, because they are putting a parking lot in that's by definition of impervious surface.

Allan Johnson

So, if they put water down into that basin, it'll eventually infiltrate down into the ground.

Dru Germanoski

Yes, so that's a way of you know, a lot of people, a lot of engineers, consider that a good practice, because it is allowing for groundwater recharge. And you know, to the extent that there is a potential when you concentrate water like that, that if there are solution voids in the rock that are plugged with unconsolidated material, that concentration of water could move that stuff and create a sinkhole. And then, of course, I think we know the answer. If there is a sink forward these methodologies to stabilize it. So, again, it's one of those things, and it could create instability, but it doesn't have to. So that puts you into the balance of questioning. Well, we want to continue to recharge groundwater and minimize stormwater runoff and risk maybe some instability. That's what that's what you're left with, even if they have a retention pond and release the water to the surface system that still involves, for heavy rainfall events, water being stored in the floodwater retention pond for a period of time, and they're capable of creating symptoms too, if there are solution voids under the retention.

Jennifer Helton

Well, you know, there's a creek that runs through there.

Allan Johnson

Actually, there isn't. I checked it out, and the creek is much further south. It's there's actually a house in between where they want to build the medical building and the lot where the creek is. I was concerned. I'm okay if, it would have been on the property they would've showed it.

Dru Germanoski

Yeah, Kathy, were you?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I just want to make sure I saw it. I want to make sure, on the on the bigger view, the building's right up against the road. As I look at it.

Dru Germanoski

The proposed building?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I mean, it's right up the parking behind it, but the building itself is right on Leithsville Road. So, when you're talking about storm water, it's a hill right there. It's like three, four, you know, probably a little bit more than that. When you're looking across the street from Giant.

Allan Johnson

They have a design so that all the stormwater runs towards that underground.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

But that's behind the building.

Allan Johnson

It's, it's actually behind the parking lot that's on the north side of the gap, they have grates in the ground, so the water runs down the grates, and then underneath the grates there's pipes that connect up those storm sewers together, and it all runs into that.

Dru Germanoski

They are back far back from the required right of way.

Allan Johnson

They have grates in the ground, so the water runs down the grates, and then underneath the grates there's pipes that connect up those storm sewers together, and it all runs into that.

Winfield Clark

If you zoom in question map, you can look at the ground, the piping, the plumbing and stuff like that. Yeah, they show it along the route.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

My concern was the water is going to pool and go on to the road.

Chad Heimbecker

Well, that's part of what would have happened on this expansion there, because there's going to be a new turn lane right? And I guess that's one of my questions that I have here. They talk about traffic intersection handling 1000 more vehicles on a weekday. Designated turn lanes addressed in here, safety improvements or anything like that. As far as that intersection, what about pedestrian walkways along the roadside? Crosswalk? I mean, if we're gonna improve...

Jennifer Helton

That's not what the EAC does. That would be with the planning.

Chad Heimbecker

Okay, well, I'd like it on the record that I'm concerned about traffic and pedestrians.

Allan Johnson

Well, actually, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission is pushing for using more bicycles and sidewalks to get people to walk, you know, exercise, and if somebody doesn't put them in somewhere, they'll never start putting them in. And you would think that this would be a good being a health-oriented company, they would try to do something like that.

Chad Heimbecker

Is this going to be an urgent care facility or something?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Medical Office, like specialists? That kind of thing.

Chad Heimbecker

We need an urgent care facility?

Allan Johnson

I would like to see that.

Russell Sutton

Does that have a separate turning lane?

Chad Heimbecker

We don't need more office space.

Russell Sutton

Does that have a separate turning lane to get into the property?

Jennifer Helton

No.

Chad Heimbecker

I think the closest Urgent Care that we have is the one that is on 378, right?

Dru Germanoski

That comes in from the south.

Chad Heimbecker

Is that the closest urgent care that we can get to basically?

Dru Germanoski

The only entrance is from the south and the only exit is to the north. By the look of this.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

If I recall you were supposed to be able to go straight and then make a left.

Allan Johnson

From the giant?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

No, I don't think so.

Chad Heimbecker

Straight across from the Giant.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Go by the cemetery was going to be...

Chad Heimbecker

This is her, thank you.

Dru Germanoski

They're highlighted in gray. So, this would be the Giant entrance. So, there's two lanes there, which would allow ingress and egress, and then if you're coming in off of 412 you can only enter in from southbound lane, and then you have to exit to the north.

Chad Heimbecker

Are those pedestrian crosswalks? Being shown there?

Dru Germanoski

I don't think so.

Allan Johnson

Yeah, well, the Giant allows you to make a left or right turn. If you stop at the stoplight, you can make a left or right turn. So, I would think it would be the same thing coming out of that medical office, stop light.

Chad Heimbecker

Crossing over 412 that they don't do currently. Is that going to be a designated turning lane?

Jennifer Helton

I think we need to have one conversation guys.

Dru Germanoski

There's nothing to stop you from coming out collecting the light and turning....by the looks of this, there would be nothing to stop you up there to use that light to turn left coming out of there.

Allan Johnson

Yeah, you can do it at the Giant there.

Winfield Clark

Chad did you want to look at that?

Dru Germanoski

And I think maybe I mean just surmising, if I were looking at this from a planning perspective, I wouldn't want the sidewalks or bike lanes down here on this side of the road in particular, for the simple reason that just to the north there, and I'd have to look at this map, I guess it's Springtown Hill Road. That's a dicey intersection there. So, to add pedestrian traffic....it would not be safe.

Allan Johnson

It's a high-speed road no doubt about it.

Chad Heimbecker

People walk across there all the time, though.

Dru Germanoski

Oh, they do, but I wouldn't encourage it by putting a sidewalk in or a bike lane.

Chad Heimbecker

Until somebody gets hit.

Dru Germanoski

So, anyway, did anyone have environmental concerns there are on the north side of that property map. They do have areas with trees and so forth. So, some of this real estate will have trees landscaped in.

Chad Heimbecker

It says that that has to be in here on-site density that the capacity calculations have been provided to indicate proposed impervious surface is within the allowable limit entail that development be limited to the currently proposed improvements in the existing wooded area to the north would remain undeveloped. So, we're assuming that they're not going to do any, I mean, that's part of this whole project. They'll never be able to build on that to maintain the hydrology requirements of the space.

Dru Germanoski

I personally didn't have any concerns. I always concern myself when it's carbonate geology, but they have sensible sinkhole mitigation plans for it. And Keystone engineers, which I know they have experience dealing with this.

Chad Heimbecker

What committee is responsible for traffic?

Jennifer Helton

Planning would be the one, they're meeting last week.

Chad Heimbecker

Oh, okay.

Jennifer Helton

We should, and I was going to bring it up as other business, someone from planning should be on this board as a liaison. That's part of our bylaws. So, then we could have deeper discussions to understand how their position was and what their concerns were so and we look at it from an EAC, we'd have a better understanding, and we haven't had that for a couple years. So, I wanted to bring that up.

Chad Heimbecker

I understand.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

You can also write them emails, Chad, to the planning group and submit what our concerns are.

Jennifer Helton

What's that?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

You can write emails? They're listed there with their emails. It used to be Craig Kologie.

Dru Germanoski

Does anyone have any concerns, otherwise? I think the standard...

Diane Hollowell

Would the township be responsible so if you were coming out of that facility, going towards the....

Carol Schneider

I need to transcribe this; I can't hear you now.

Chad Heimbecker

Is that on?

Diane Hollowell

So, coming out of that Diane,

Janine Bonham

Can you turn the mic on for her?

Diane Hollowell

So, people coming out of facility will be at a light, and you would see straight across to Giant. Is that correct? To exit that building that way. So would the township be responsible for that light, or is that a State Road?

Cheyenne Rieman

It's Penndot.

Jennifer Helton

It's a State Road.

Dru Germanoski

I think normally, in a case like this, what EAC chooses to do is say we either have concerns and outline them for planning, or to say we don't have concerns. Does anybody have significant concerns? And again, we should be taking an environmental perspective on this and make our concerns environmentally based, rather than something like I'd prefer it to be a different health provider or something that would be inappropriate. So does anybody have concerns that we should register that rise to that level.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

What about the lights, the light noise for the people in the back, behind this development?

Jennifer Helton

That's in the notes. I can't get my notes open.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Thank you.

Dru Germanoski

Did notice anything in there? Anybody notice in the report, whether that was addressed?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

There are homes... There are homes behind that development. Yeah, it's hard to figure out.

Chad Heimbecker

I know. I'm not trying to overreach. These are just my concerns, so I'll take them to the appropriate committee.

Jennifer Helton

We're going to try to control it.

Winfield Clark

I see the maps here too. Yeah, I think they're trying to look to see what houses were behind.

Chad Heimbecker

I guess that's gonna get torn.

Winfield Clark

Yeah, it looks like the only house is on there. So, that right there is that.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

We're having lighting issues, light noise issues with the Ball Park, so it's very much in people's minds right now. So, you know, you're just concerned they might have evening hours or something like that in you know, there's a whole thing of homes back here. This is pretty generic.

Dru Germanoski

Yeah, they basically say they're going to provide sufficient lighting for safety while simultaneously controlling spillover of lighting onto adjacent property.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

And how do you do that?

Dru Germanoski

I think their approach is, my guess, would be the orientation or direction of the lighting, and as long as they're maintained, I assume as long as they're maintaining the light direction towards the property and not oriented out there going to be a glow at night. I think that's inevitable.

Jennifer Helton

If they use LED.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

So, we can request that, you know, Easton Road with warehouses and all that, you know that can be a problem. Carol, I don't know the answer to this, but do the people that are behind this development, do they get like, a notification, and did they have a chance to, like, participate in any kind of...

Carol Schneider

I believe, within so many feet they get, they get letters.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

But not like that street that's behind.

Carol Schneider

I know that surrounding neighbors get letters within so many feet.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Right, there are concerns, noise concerns and lighting concerns. You know, it's going to change their homes in their norm.

Carol Schneider

I don't know.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Yeah, same.

Laura Ray

I think the notifications are only if they need a zoning variance. And I'm not sure if there's any involved in this.

Cheyenne Rieman

I don't think they were asking for variances.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

The impact.

Laura Ray

I don't know that anything else does.

Dru Germanoski

And again, I think as a general rule of thumb, when these proposals are meeting all the ordinances and site development protocols and regulations, that's standard.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Well, I know what's going on with Hellertown and Sheetz, and I know, you know, some of the things that have happened over Lower Saucon Township. So, yeah, you try to be a good neighbor, you know, let them know. Let them have some input, or be you know, just be aware. You know, we recommend LED lights. You know, if it makes a better quality of life for them, then why wouldn't you?

Dru Germanoski

Are you moving that we....

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I make a motion that we be cognizant of the light noise that's going to affect the Lower Saucon Township residents that are going to be adjacent to this property or close to this proxy. And we ask the engineering company to consider LED lighting for environmental purposes.

Dru Germanoski

Is there a second to that motion?

Jennifer Helton

I second.

Dru Germanoski

Okay, and you got the motion. It's recorded for you, Carol, is that correct?

Carol Schneider

Yes.

Dru Germanoski

Janine?

Janine Bonham

I have a question. You said use LED lights, as opposed to what else? Because led creates more glow.

Jennifer Helton

No, it's the preferred lighting. We just came from a EAC Conserve, and a lot of townships and municipalities are now using LED, and you can do it in different types.

Janine Bonham

It's all about how you direct the light, you know, right?

Jennifer Helton

But it's also an energy conservation you know, it uses less electricity, it lasts longer and promoting it.

Dru Germanoski

I think that promotion does focus on being aware of the light spillover and minimizing or avoiding that. So, I think the engineers will come forward with a plan that bring this to the Planning Commission's attention.

Russell Sutton

But they would have operating hours and probably have timers to shut off the lights at a certain time.

Chad Heimbecker

Is it 24 hours?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

But they keep security lights on like that's what happens on Easton Road. You know, the office, it closes at five, but the lights stay on in some places, 24/7 because there are security lights.

Chad Heimbecker

The Giant center already has light.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

They do, but the homes are behind Giant but they will be behind this medical facility.

Chad Heimbecker

Closer for sure.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Right? It's something to consider.

Dru Germanoski

I think our motion brings that to their attention. So, having said that, are we ready to vote on that motion? All in favor? Say, aye.

EAC

Aye.

Dru Germanoski

So, motion carries to draw their attention to lightning with consideration.

MOTION BY: Kathy motioned that we be cognizant of the light noise that's going to affect the Lower Saucon Township residents that are going to be adjacent to this property or close to this proxy. And we ask the engineering company to consider LED lighting for environmental purposes.

SECOND BY: Jennifer, 7-0

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Notify them of the potential traffic, but that's not our purview.

Dru Germanoski

I thought this says that they're still doing traffic studies. Is that right?

Jennifer Helton

It did.

Chad Heimbecker

It did in the beginning of it, yes.

Dru Germanoski

Do we have any public comment?

Diane Hollowell

Urgent Care to closes at eight o'clock. Usually.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - NONE

VI. **UPDATES/REPORTS**

A. **Determine Date for Fall Adopt-A-Road Cleanup (KPM)**

Dru Germanoski

Okay, updates and reports. Kathy, your favorite subject, determining the date for fall. Adopt-A-Road cleanup.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I don't have a calendar.

Dru Germanoski

Here's a calendar. So, we are here Thursday. This is October. If we want to look into November, let me know, and I'll scroll.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

No, I can see it right there. How do people feel about the Saturday after Thanksgiving? Is that a bad day? Oh, I'm sorry, that's the Thanksgiving this year. Is the 28th How about the 23rd No, does that mean anything to anybody?

Carol Schneider

I think the week before is the last week that you can do it.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Of course, it is.

Dru Germanoski

Do you mean the 15th?

Carol Schneider

I believe. So, we I have it on the calendar or on the agenda early because we have other groups that go out. I can only have three groups go out per week, because that's all the or per weekend. That's all the supplies that we have enough for three groups. That's why I keep putting it on here, so you get a date. I don't want it to fill up. Yeah, sorry,

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I'm like, booked. I'm a very social butterfly. How about the 9th? I think I have a wedding the 9th, but I can't remember. I know I left my phone at home.

Jennifer Helton

Of November 9, November?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Yeah, wedding/trash pickup? Hmm...

Dru Germanoski

Trash pickups is always first thing in the morning, correct?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

It is, yeah.

Cheyenne Rieman

We were quick last time.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Yeah, nine o'clock. Nine o'clock AM on November the ninth.

Carol Schneider

What are the pick-up drop-off times?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Okay, I knew you're going to ask me that I might ask Russ to help me. We'll see what it would be the eighth. You know, pick him up on the eighth and bring him back on the 11th.

Dru Germanoski

The 9th is a Saturday.

Laura Ray

Are you open on Veteran's Day?

Jennifer Helton

Did she hear what she just said? I'm not listening.

Laura Ray

I'm making sure she was open on the 11th for Veterans Day.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Oh, the 11th is Veterans Day. I just have to drop stuff off.

Dru Germanoski

Okay, good.

Carol Schneider

I need to. Let Roger and the crew know, I'm sorry. I mean it's, it's a rippling effect and others are affected. 8am, 7am?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Seven? Would be great.

Carol Schneider

For both pick-up and drop-off?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Yeah, that would be ideal. Then I can just go to work. That'd be great. Sounds good?

Russell Sutton

Where's it going to be located?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Reading Road. Go past a Giant. it's the very

Russell Sutton

Same as last time?

Chad Heimbecker

Yes, and we'll meet at the same place, right where that little bridge is?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Same bat channel, same bat time.

B. Climate Action Plan Update (AJ)

Dru Germanoski

This brings us to Allan, Climate Action Plan. Do you have any anything to report?

Allan Johnson

Yeah, I have some stuff to say. First of all, first of all, I'd like to say something about the stormwater plane the Act 167 watersheds assessment. Finally, they got the questionnaire that they want filled out that Lehigh Valley Planning Commission wants Lower Saucon Township to fill out. They finally got that questionnaire to me, and then I got it to the manager. So, the

manager has it, and she has assigned our engineer and our public works department to work on coming up with the information needed to complete that survey. And I have a copy of the survey here. I can pass it around, and you can see that it's, you know, pretty extensive. Does anybody want a copy to take home? I probably can find another one. Okay, so that's in the hands of the township. So, the next thing I wanted to talk about is climate warming. Did anybody read the latest greenhouse gas estimate report from Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, the 2024, greenhouse gas emissions report, no, well, it's on the on their website, you go to environment, then you go to climate action, and then it's there. So, I wrote down a couple things here that they mentioned so you can get an idea of what's going on. So what I'm going to say is from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission 2024 regional Emissions Inventory results, the Greater Lehigh Valley greenhouse gas inventory shows community wide emissions by sector for Lehigh and Northampton counties, Carbon County in PA and Warren County in New Jersey, and all of those counties are in the Metropolitan Statistical Area, the emission estimates and projections are based on activities within the entire Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton PA, New Jersey, Metropolitan Statistical Area, with 2022 serving as the baseline year. So, 2022 is the baseline year for the data in the report, but they didn't publish the report until 2024 so that's why it's called the 2024 greenhouse gas emissions report. So, one of the terms that they use in the report is a carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). So, this is the definition a carbon dioxide equivalent is a measure that converts the concentration or amounts of other gasses within the atmosphere to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide with the same global warming potential. So, I'm going to list here the quantities of greenhouse gasses that are in the 2024 report, and they are listed in terms MTCO₂e of metric tons, CO₂ equivalents. Now a metric ton, or they spell it in the CGS system, TONNE is 1000 kilograms. In the metric measurement, and in our measurement, it's 2,204 pounds. So, our ton is 2,000 pounds. Theirs is 2,204.6 pounds. So, in the industrial energy and processes category, they estimate 4,094,165 MTCO₂e. In the transportation and mobile sources, they estimate 4,083,797 MTCO₂e. In the commercial energy category, they estimate 2,685,808 MTCO₂e. And in the residential energy category. The residential energy is 1,530,462 MTCO₂e. And, in the solid waste category, 223,609 MTCO₂e. Now there's only four landfills in the in the Lehigh Valley in Lehigh and Northampton County. Actually, there's only three. One of them is in New Jersey. So, there's four altogether, three in Lehigh and Northampton County and one in New Jersey, and that's all I'm going to say there. I'm waiting for Kathy to pipe up. She can pipe up later.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I will.

Allan Johnson

In the agriculture category, it's 65,794 MTCO₂e and the portable water and wastewater category, it's 37,749 MTCO₂e. That sounds like an awful lot.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Doesn't it?

Chad Heimbecker

What the four and a half million industrial one?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Right?

Allan Johnson

No, all the millions of metric tons, a million metric tons sounds like a lot, But, anyway, altogether, the total is 12 point 7 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent. Now the I think I misspoke there. No, 4 million and 12 million, yeah, everything I said is right. 7 million metric ton CO₂ a coolant total, the report contains information on sequestration and carbon storage, and also the report contains a business-as-usual forecast, which is a type of forecast that assumes

no new actions or policies are adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And the appendices of the report contain details about how the report was created. So that's all I have to say.

Dru Germanoski

Okay, thank you, Allan.

Chad Heimbecker

Thank you.

C. Plastic Bag Ban (LR)

Dru Germanoski

This brings Laura Ray to the forefront with the agenda item, the plastic ban. Plastic bag ban, update, I believe you had a Zoom meeting a week or two ago. So, the floor is yours.

Laura Ray

Yes, I'm gonna make my report short so I don't start coughing.

Cheyenne Rieman

Are you sick?

Laura Ray

I have a cold.

Cheyenne Rieman

Oh, come on.

Laura Ray

So, we met two weeks ago, and it was by zoom we met with Faran Savitz from Penn Environment, so he gave us a lot of good reference material, and I think everybody's maybe digesting that. We'd like to maybe make our next meeting in person, if we can come up with a place that we can get together and talk. Otherwise, we'll set up for a zoom again. So, we really haven't dug in too far yet. So, that's about it for now.

Dru Germanoski

Thank you, Laura.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Did you want to say something Allan?

Allan Johnson

I think I read this correctly. Wait, 4.7 million metric tons and more than I think I was saying. I was saying like 4 million. 94,160 5 million metric tons. I should have said 4,094,165 metric tons.

Carol Schneider

You saved me on a correction.

D. Review of Tire Recycling Program September 14, 2024 (KPM)

Dru Germanoski

All right. Kathy, review of the tire recycling program, how that was.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

It went great. Thank you very much. And thank you to Russ and thank you to Laura Ray for helping me. We collected 93 tires. Thank you to the Lower Saucon Township Council for helping support it. It went very well, and it was a success.

Dru Germanoski

So that was 93 fewer tires that you'll see on the side of the road.

Russell Sutton

Tractor tires.

Chad Heimbecker

They were big ones.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

One man brought four tractor tires. One man brought six tires with rims. One guy brought quote, I don't know. He had a trailer full of tires, 24 by the time we got done with him. One lady, but a brand-new tire, still in the wrapping that she didn't know what to do with. I kind of felt bad, but it went very well. And thank you to Russ and Laura Ray.

Chad Heimbecker

And everything with the record keeping went, ok?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Record keeping and turned out to be seamless at the end of the day, Carol and Cathy from Lower Saucon Township. You know, I had resident lists, so, boom, boom. It went very, very well. Thank you very much.

Chad Heimbecker

So, did you use up all of the funds that were allocated for that?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

No, okay, no, 93 tires. I should have brought it with me. I think 93 tires and 7 or 6, 7 tires came from Hellertown. All the rest were Lower Saucon Township. So, I don't know that Hellertown will partner with us again if we do it again. But it also the other thing is, too people were saying very complimentary things, and they were very excited to be able to get rid of their tires. They were very excited that there was electronics recycling a week or two weeks later, and now that they know there was tire recycling, they were going to tell other people. So, it turned out to be a good, a good, easy day. It was piece of cake.

Chad Heimbecker

Thank you. Thank you for your efforts getting that all together.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

My pleasure.

E. Review of Fall Clean Earth Recycling on September 28, 2024 (CH)

Dru Germanoski

All right, moving right along. Review of the fall clean earth recycling on September 28 that's you, Chad.

Chad Heimbecker

Yeah. Everything went really smooth. I think thanks to Janine here. Laura, Jen, you were there. Carol, of course, Kevin. I believe his name is Oh. Kevin, Kurt, those two guys helped me out a bit with traffic control and everything, and I lost count. I was trying to keep track of the vehicles,

but I would say we probably had 75 or so cars that showed up. And from the receiving reports here, there's two separate ones. So, I'm going to, I guess, combine the two of these?

Carol Schneider

One is what the township handed in and paid for items and the other was township residents.

Chad Heimbecker

Well, either way, putting them together, we almost have about 6,000 pounds worth of electronics that were recycled on that day in about three hours. So, I feel it's like a successful event, even though it was a little wet.

Jennifer Helton

It was fun.

Chad Heimbecker

It worked. It was nice.

Jennifer Helton

It was great Banana Bread. And I think the one nice thing is, Carol was asking, like, how did you hear and a lot of people the newsletter is really, I think was the top answer.

Chad Heimbecker

Oh, thank you. You missed out on the caramel chocolate chip banana bread. It was my pleasure.

Carol Schneider

And I want to thank you, because a lot of people said about tire recycling, they found out there.

Jennifer Helton

So, yeah, yeah.

Carol Schneider

So, maybe a note for next year if we have things going on. I can put it all on a flyer, and then at the first event we can give it out.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Yeah, absolutely. That was very good.

F. WeConservePA - EAC Fall Gathering Saturday, October 5, 2024, \$75.00 fee (JH)

Dru Germanoski

Okay. And then, along with other updates reports, Jennifer, you're going to report on, WeConservePA the EAC fall gathering for this past Saturday.

Jennifer Helton

Yeah, so Laura Ray and I went and, I mean, it was very informative. It's a great networking group of all different EACs, and they have topics. And one of the things was reducing energy usage. And so led, LEDs are big. They reduce electricity by, in this Springfield by 57% of energy so but there's different uses of that. They also put it in municipality buildings. Looked at temperature, light usage. They had stuff that talked about the greenways and climate action, and its underground resources and stuff like that. So, it's very beneficial, and I encourage that we become a member, so that all of us can go, and I'm not sure the pricing and Carol, we can find that out, but it would be nice. There were some groups that showed up and they actually had shirts, and I'd like us to encourage and maybe get even a t shirt that says EAC, and maybe come up with a fun logo for the township and our EAC. But lot of good discussion. And Laura, I don't know if there's anything you wanted to add?

Laura Ray

Well, one of the sessions I went to dealt with doing energy audits, so it was very interesting. I think we should be doing that here at the township building. They also have a controls analysis that you can do, which we really could use in this building, because nobody knows how to operate the HVAC system. And from what they explained is over the years, you can be like undermining how your system was really meant to be working, so that you know, it's almost running 24/7 when it really shouldn't be like you're heating up too much, and then you have to cool down, and vice versa. So, I never heard of a controls analysis, but that would probably be a good thing to do here.

Carol Schneider

Roger does have ours on control as far as on weekend, turning it down or up, whatever the case may be. He does do that here.

Russell Sutton

Fans usually run all the time. Dip the heat and cool. You don't but the fans running for circulation.

Laura Ray

It would be good to have somebody look at the system, I think. And then also for we're proposing a new public's work building addition. So, it would be great to have that thing built to some sort of good energy efficiency standards. And then I also went to a session on meadows. Nothing really new to me there, but just you know, you need to maintain them.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

So, it's a personal goal of mine. Next year, if we can't do a presentation for Lower Saucon or have Lower Saucon Township be one of the presenters, then I at least like to do a poster. But like what? I'd like to do it as a committee, of course, but I'd also be interested in just doing it myself to be I'd like us to be on the more involved with the conference. I've learned so much from that conference. It's great.

Jennifer Helton

Oh, they would love that.

Laura Ray

They start the session with a lightning round where four different areas presented, like their hot project. That was really fun to see. And one of the sponsors that was there was, what were they called, with the recyclable...what's their name?

Jennifer Helton

Redish.

Laura Ray

Redish. So, they had, like, for your water or coffee, tea, whatever, and for our lunch snacks, it's all this plastic plates and cups and lids. You put it into a bin, this company picks up and takes it and washes it has a QR code on it. You can track how many times this stuff's being reused and comes back. So, it's like a service they do all over the place, down in like Montgomery County, there's a lot of towns listed.

Jennifer Helton

But Lutron is doing it, getting ready to implement it here.

Laura Ray

So yeah, they're looking to target some big businesses to take this and use this in their corporate, you know, cafeterias and lunch as a, you know, like places that wouldn't normally be washing

dishes and things like that, but they could offer this, and this company comes and picks it up daily or weekly, or whatever they do, and bring them fresh, new ones. It was really neat concept.

Russell Sutton

Schools and universities can use that.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Last year the Lightning rounds was the Christmas tree lights and the battery, the batteries, yeah, and the light noise. And the light noise was fascinating, but we should be encouraging the high schoolers to do like the battery collection and the Christmas tree lights, the amount of the revenue, or them, sorry, the number of lights. I forget what she said in the pounds and how much they got back when they took the lights to the guide, the scrappers, the I the metal yards, the scrap yards, you know, they got money back for the Christmas. It was really interesting. It was very interesting.

VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Non-Agenda Items (EAC Budget & Grant Writing):

Dru Germanoski

Okay, so then let's bring this to old miscellaneous business. Now, we really can't take action on this item because it wasn't on the agenda, but we could discuss it, and perhaps if we feel that we're going to have an actionable item, we can put it on next month's agenda. But Jennifer had requested information from Carol about what our budget might be, what our expenditures have been, so I'll let you take it from there. Jennifer.

Jennifer Helton

So, thank you, Carol for getting me that. And so I didn't produce a whole bunch, but just basically it shows from year to year from 2022 basically there's four categories, which is fine, and the only reason I was more concerned is like, if there's items that were coming up, we know we have a budget. And one of the things that came up that I have highlighted in yellow is we up until 2024 we weren't charged as part of the budget in this group, but they budget \$4,000 and we're over budget by \$2,391 and so I just thought it was good as we have these events that we're aware of it as We have potential training and various items that we have a voice and we get it back to Cathy so that we can look at, you know, various budget items. And then one of the things, Carol that I had forward an email to you just with some questions, like, how was the breakdown of that \$6,000 just, you know, what did we spend? So, we had a visual on it, and then I didn't know what supplies were. When it says EAC open space, there's a \$200.

Carol Schneider

When did you send that email?

Jennifer Helton

Last night, yesterday? But the whole purpose of this, I thought it was helpful to know, because we want to join something like we can serve, or maybe we come across another training class that someone would feel be beneficial, we would at least have the budget. It would still have to go up to council, but at least we're speaking with a budget in mind. And so, and there's various items. So, like they said, take a look at it, and if we could put it on the budget to discuss more, it would be great.

Dru Germanoski

On the agenda, you mean for next month?

Jennifer Helton

Yes. Thank you for clarifying that. But yeah, so now we know.

Dru Germanoski

For clarification, Carol, the projected numbers is that, does that come from the township manager? Then, is that where those numbers came from? Because there's a column here that says 2025, projected.

Carol Schneider

That came from. Cathy.

Dru Germanoski

Okay, good, okay, just point of information.

Carol Schneider

Jennifer, I don't see that I got your email. Could forward in to me? Or re-send it to me?

Jennifer Helton

Okay, I will.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

So, what did we spend? If I'm reading this right, we spent \$6,391 this year on community events.

Chad Heimbecker

Recycling and tire, electronics and tire recycling.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

The tire wasn't even close to that, I don't know how much recycling was?

Jennifer Helton

Well, that's why I asked for a breakdown, because just so we know.

Carol Schneider

The electronics recycling event that we just held was \$5,500 and then in addition to that, everybody has to pay for their items that they're bringing in.

Allan Johnson

You know, you can take your electronics to Staples, and they'll take anything.

Russell Sutton

Batteries, yeah?

Carol Schneider

They charge you.

Allan Johnson

No, they just take anything.

Carol Schneider

TVs?

Dru Germanoski

TV's everyone does charge.

Allan Johnson

Anything they sell. I mean, like, you know, yeah.

Carol Schneider

The County does have a program where we can get some money reimbursed for the electronics recycling. So, that's \$2,000 to \$4,000. We should hopefully get \$4,000 back. Last year, we did get \$1,800 but that was a split program between Upper Saucon and Lower Saucon, and that's why we only got \$1,800. So, I think the max is \$4,000 so Cathy will put in for that grant. With the information that we received.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Is that the same information, Laura, do you remember when Milou Mackenzie came to the to the Lower Saucon Township Council meeting.

Laura Ray

Right?

Kathy Pichel McGovern

And she was talking about available grants.

Laura Ray

She was kind of was generic about grants.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

She was very generic.

Laura Ray

Not, I don't think is specific.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Is there a place to look for that? Those kinds of grants?

Laura Ray

We get stuff like that all the time in our email from PSATS.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

So, you're getting fed opportunities.

Laura Ray

I would imagine Cathy hopefully keeps a radar open to those specific things.

Cheyenne Rieman

Is there better way to make sure that it's like environment related like you could oversee that and kind of spearhead that?

Carol Schneider

Any grant information you can always forward that.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Oh, absolutely.

Carol Schneider

You are correct. She's working three jobs right now.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I just remember Milou Mackenzie presenting herself, saying that there's money available for the council, but for a variety of different things. But where is that information like? I don't, I don't know. I don't know what she was referring to.

Laura Ray

I don't remember anything specific? I think it was a general...

Jennifer Helton

It's a general fund.

Laura Ray

She gets that she can spend.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Because she offered. And also, do we have a grant writer or no?

Carol Schneider

That would be Cathy.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Oh, Cathy, is the grant writer? Okay? I didn't know if there was somebody else out there right now.

Cheyenne Rieman

Cathy is the Alpha and Omega right now.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Okay, I didn't know. I thought we had a specified Grant writer.

Chad Heimbecker

Is there any way that we need to assist in this?

Carol Schneider

If you see information, you know, it's always good to forward that kind of information and maybe something that she's missed.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Or if we find something, would we send it to Cathy to see if it's appropriate before we start applying for something? You know what I mean, like, is it, if we, if we apply for this grant? Is this something that, you know we can use.

Carol Schneider

I don't know if that's something that you would be able to apply for, if it would have to be the Township, so I don't know, okay forward the information, so she has it, and we can have that conversation at that time.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Perfect. Yeah, wonderful.

Carol Schneider

Any help is good.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Wonderful.

Chad Heimbecker

When are we going to know the results of that grant?

Carol Schneider

Well, we just got this information in, so now it'll be sent to the county, because that is a grant that comes through Northampton County.

Chad Heimbecker

Oh, so you had to get the bill first, and can you send it in?

Carol Schneider

Yes, we need all the information, the breakdowns, and then we send it with the application.

Chad Heimbecker

Okay.

A. Review and Approval of September 10, 2024 Minutes

Dru Germanoski

That brings us to the review and approval. September 10 minutes, I went through any of my spoken words and made suggestions for Carol to correct any perceived mistakes, and I forwarded that file to her. Does anybody else have any corrections of the minutes that they would like to bring to Carol's attention?

Laura Ray

I had just a couple, and I had thought I started writing them up at home, but I didn't find them. Just a couple. Well, so page 22 line 43 it's supposed to say something like, that's just early registration. Page 23 line 48 there's a question mark, which isn't a question, so just a period. And then in the second part, it says they, and that should be I. And then on pages 26 and 27 there's two spots where it said where we were talking with Faran Savitz. I believe he spells his name with l-r, F, A, R, N. That's it.

Allan Johnson

I corrected mine on paper, and I'll give them to Carol.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Oh, thank God.

Dru Germanoski

Okay. Anybody else? Okay? So, Carol, you will make the adjustments based on Allan's comments and mine you have so, okay, everyone that brings us to a moment where we can entertain a motion to adjourn.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

I have one thing, and it's about Harry. So, question, is there something that we can do to help you, to help you, or is there a project that you would like to do that we can help you? Like, how can we make this more beneficial for you?

Harry Vicic

No, this experience has been great. Something I was going to say, I should have said earlier, was there was a point in time that I was going to intern for Milou Mackenzie and I, I do have a context at their office. If that could be of any help, anyone.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

It was referring to funds that she received that she has to disseminate to the different counties and municipalities. But I don't remember all the details.

Harry Vicic

I could reach out if someone wanted me to ask something, because I've been with her to Harrisburg.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Wonderful.

Jennifer Helton

Yeah, that'd be great.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Well, speak up if there's something that we can do to make this a better experience.

Harry Vicic

This has been great. Otherwise, thank you.

Dru Germanoski

Very good, motion to adjourn.

Kathy Pichel McGovern

Second.

Dru Germanoski

All in favor.

EAC

Aye.

Dru Germanoski

Okay, thanks everybody. We're not, I don't know we're done yet but this has been a very productive year so far so thank everybody for your initiatives and your efforts.

Jennifer Helton

Thank you Dru.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Dru moved for adjournment. The time was 7:40 p.m.

SECOND BY: Kathy, 7-0

Next EAC Meeting: November 12, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.