

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
May 2, 2022**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

The following members answered to the roll call:

Stan Shelosky – EAC Chairman	Jane Mellert, EAC Member
Jeffrey Beavan – EAC Vice Chairman	Joseph Colosi – EAC Member
Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member	Tom Petrucci – Plainfield Twp. Manager Absent

Also in attendance – Township resident Kelly Grim

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and the pledge of allegiance was performed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – April 4, 2022 Minutes - A motion was made by Stan Shelosky and seconded by Joseph Colosi to approve the April 4, 2022 minutes.

Vote: 5 Yes

MEETING BUSINESS

LITTLE BUSHKILL CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN – Prioritized Initiatives

Chairman Stan Shelosky reviewed the following sections of the 2021 Approved Action Plan with the EAC Members:

Page 8 – Number 1 and 5– Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan –Task 1 and MS4 Permit Program.

Motion – Stan Shelosky made a motion to recommend the continued focus on the location sampling consistent with the 2018 Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan. Joseph Colosi seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 Yes

Page 8 – Number 2 – Agricultural BMP’s, exclusionary fencing, and riparian buffers as needed along key portions of the Little Bushkill Creek Road Tributary. Jane Mellert noted the Township did approach a property owner along Benders Church Road and Heitzman Road to fence off the cattle from the stream and for an alternate watering source to be installed utilizing grant funds. The property owner was not receptive to the idea at the time.

Page 9 – Number 6 – Sewage Enforcement Program Task 1- Authorize the Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) to investigate all potential/suspected origins of human pathogens that are served by septic systems as set forth in the 2018 Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan Report.

It was noted that the ACT 537 Sewage Facilities Plan was worked on with Entech Engineering. The update was reviewed by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and is now being reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection. During the process a Sub-Committee was formed with Township Manager Thomas Petrucci, Supervisor and EAC Member Jane Mellert, and Planning Commission Members Robin Dingle and Terry Kleintop. An Ordinance was also reviewed that helps to encourage residents to maintain their septic systems and have the septic tank pumped. The SEO can investigate suspected problem septic systems.

Page 9 – Number 7,8,9,10 – Coordination with Wind Gap and the Northampton County Conservation District, the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Office.

Motion – Bruce Rabenold made a motion to recommend the Township start the process of coordination and cooperation with Wind Gap and the County and State Agencies as outlined in Numbers 7,8,9,and 10 on page 9 of the 2021 Action Plan. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey Beavan. Vote: 5 Yes

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PLAN – Identification of Prioritized Open Space Properties and Development of Educational/Promotional Program for “Additional Ways to Preserve Open Space”

Bruce Rabenold presented a possible conservation easement project for discussion. The area borders the **West side of the Plainfield Township Trail between Grand Central Road and Delabole Road and is on the Official Map.** The area could offer an increased buffer to the trail. A potential easement would cover approximately 3000 linear feet and cross five parcels. Jane Mellert noted that parking for trail access along Grand Central Road is very limited. Bruce had a topo map and Google Earth shot of the property along the trail. The information can be utilized for further review.

The EAC discussed additional areas where Northampton County is planning for future trail extensions. It was noted the County is in the process of linking the trail from Bushkill Township (Jacobsburg area) to the trailhead near Stockertown. Additional areas are along Route 512 and a link to the Appalachian Trail are also being planned.

Grand Central Woods was reviewed for preservation and meetings were held in the past. At this point the potential project has not progressed. Grand Central Woods has many tributaries to the Little Bushkill Creek. The EAC discussed the Solid Waste Zoning District and mentioned Waste Managements proposed plan to relocate the recycling center.

The EAC discussed ways to get the word out to the public regarding the preservation programs.

Motion – Stan Shelosky made a motion that the EAC forward a request to the Township that an article be included in the next Township newsletter regarding the preservation program and Open Space Plan. Joseph Colosi seconded the motion Vote: 5 Yes

Jeffrey Beavan noted that MS4 requires the identification of areas for stormwater improvements. Possibly two goals could be achieved by identifying and improving water run-off and preserving open space.

REVIEW NEW OPEN SPACE LEGISLATION

PA House Bill #221 (Act 15 of 2022)– Allows a local government unit that imposes a dedicated real estate tax or earned income tax for preserving and maintaining land for open space under Act 442 of 1967 to use a portion of the tax revenue for maintenance of open space land that was not acquired under the provisions of Act 442 of 1967. The legislation takes effect in 60 days after authorization. Act 15 takes effect on June 18, 2022.

CITIZENS AGENDA/NON AGENDA

Township resident Kelly Grim who resides on Gap View Road was present. Kelly noted that she knows a resource for publication of newsletters and will provide the information to Tom Petrucci. She noted that Plainfield Township is a nice area to live and would not want to see it be developed fast due to people moving in from other states and commuting. Kelly further noted it is good to have preserved land in the area and a plan for future preservation. Jane Mellert noted that the Township has a large portion zoned Farm and Forrest and limited access to sewer lines. When a Township extends sewer lines the land develops faster.

BIOSOLIDS

Prior to the start of the meeting Jane Mellert reported the Board of Supervisors sent a Resolution regarding Biosolids to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors for consideration at the PSATS Conference which was held on April 24-27, 2022. The Resolution was tabled by the PSATS Resolution Committee.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Stan Shelosky and seconded by Bruce Rabenold to adjourn the EAC meeting at 8:15 pm.

Vote: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, EAC Member
Plainfield Township EAC