

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council was held on **Monday, October 4, 2021** at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, which is located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Chairman, Bob Cornman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

The following members of the Environmental Advisory Council answered roll call: Chairman Robert Cornman, Bob Simpson, Jeff Beavan, Jane Mellert and Bruce Rabenold.

Stan Shelosky was excused from attending the meeting.

Also present was Township Manager/Secretary to the Environmental Advisory Council, who is Tom Petrucci, and Charlie Schmehl, who is the Vice President of Urban Research and Development Corporation (URDC).

I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – September 2, 2021 Draft Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Bob Simpson made a motion to approve the September 2, 2021 Draft EAC Meeting Minutes, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Jeff Beavan

Prior to the vote, Bob Cornman called for any questions or comments from members of the public or the EAC.

The motion was approved. Vote 5-0.

II. MEETING BUSINESS:

1. Public Presentation on DRAFT Clean Fill Regulations Ordinance/ Review of DRAFT Clean Fill Regulations Ordinance

Charlie Schmehl gave an overview of the DRAFT Clean Fill Regulations Ordinance provisions project. The goal is not to regulate fill within the Township (ex. one farm to another). The primary issue is the issue of materials being brought in from outside the Township. In many cases, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) does not require additional testing. The Township cannot regulate operational matters concerning clean fill. The Township is mainly seeking to confirm compliance with the existing PA DEP regulations. **The memorandum and draft ordinance**

provisions document dated October 1, 2021 is incorporated into these minutes as though more fully set forth at length as Exhibit “A”.

EAC member Stan Shelosky, who was not able to attend the meeting, provided comments dated October 4, 2021, which are listed as follows:

2.A. Should it read ‘originate outside of the township’ instead of ‘brought into the township?’ Some imported materials may already exist within the township borders and used for fill.

What kind of township oversight or monitoring will apply to the small projects under 50 or 100 tons? As I understand it, no zoning permit will be needed.

A zoning permit should be required for ‘any’ quantity of fill placed in an abandoned quarry hole, if the material is imported or is on site. Submission of the FP001 should be required.

5.D. Engineer reports should be filed and certified ‘periodically’ for larger fill projects. Will the township appoint its own engineer to review these reports?

6. Does this section apply to any quantity of imported material, even for those projects proposing less than 50 tons or 100 tons and therefore not requiring a zoning permit?

General Comments

1. Some landowners in the past have actively sought free DIY ‘clean fill’ improve grade on their property. This activity might continue for months or years. Unfortunately, this may become an opportunity for the importation and placement of objectionable materials, or materials of unknown composition and source. Will this ordinance regulate this practice?

2. Should the quarry hole inventory map be referenced in this section?

3. How will the township know if a fill grows to be more than the 50 or 100 ton thresholds?

The following discussion points occurred:

- Bob Simpson identified a gap in the provisions where suspected fill that originates in the Township may be contaminated and would not be subject to the ordinance requirements as currently drafted. Charlie Schmehl will attempt to address this issue in the next revised draft ordinance document.

- A discussion occurred as to whether the Township Engineer should review the reports that are submitted to the Township. It was noted that the Township cannot recoup the costs of this review. It was decided that the language should allow flexibility for the Township Engineer, Township Manager or their designees (Township staff) to review documentation as required.
- The intent is to not regulate backyard filling where clean fill is being used to improve the grade of properties.
- Solid Waste Landfills will not be regulated by this ordinance.
- Jeff Beavan indicated the relevant chapter of the PA DEP regulations where the form is originated should be referenced (as amended).
- Jeff Beavan recommended that language should be added to paragraph 6 (C), that, “as a condition of special exception approval”.
- Bob Cornman suggested that the language on page 4, section 3, should be revised to include concrete and masonry.
- It was discussed that dredged material and asphalt millings should not be permitted to be used as fill within water-filled quarries or residential projects. Concrete, brick or block should not be used as fill for water-filled quarries. Jane Mellert indicated that water-filled quarries should be ideally filled with the materials that came out of them.
- Under 5 (A), it was suggested that the language should be revised to make the “applicant” sign off for the responsibility- not the “landowner”.
- Next Step: Charlie will provide the Township EAC with the revised draft ordinance at least one (1) week prior to the Monday, November 1, 2021 EAC meeting. The Township Manager will include the revised draft ordinance in its entirety within the next NIXLE alert via email/text.

III. CITIZEN’S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA (*There is a 5-minute time limit for speakers. Please state your name prior to addressing the Environmental Advisory Council*)*

Resident, Konrad Mellert, and Adrienne Fors (Waste Management) were in attendance.

Resident Konrad Mellert expressed a concern with the Township monitoring this project. It is hard for the Township to enforce these provisions (i.e. the Township cannot oversee each and every fill project). He also inquired as to whether New Jersey

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Environmental Advisory Council, motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Bob Simpson to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci
Township Manager/Secretary
Plainfield Township