

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JANAURY 11, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council was held on Monday, January 11, 2021 via Telephone Conference Zoom Meeting Call-In Number 1-877-853-5247 (US Toll Free).

Conference ID: 881 4454 5678 (Press # when prompted)

In accordance with Governor Wolf's ongoing COVID-19 pandemic emergency declaration by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Plainfield Township officials are holding this regular meeting utilizing the Zoom authorized telecommunication device platform only. Remote meetings are permitted under the provisions of Act 15 of 2020 (Health Care Cost Containment Act). The Environmental Advisory Council members will not be physically present at this meeting. This public meeting will be recorded. We kindly ask that all interested parties participating via the dedicated conference call line to only speak during the sections of the meeting that are specifically reserved for public comment or when prompted by the Chairman and to also state your name each time you are speaking. Members of the public and all interested parties will have the opportunity to comment via the telephone conference call prior to any official action taking place and during the Citizen's Agenda/Non-Agenda portion of the meeting. Anyone intentionally disrupting the meeting will be promptly muted and/or ejected from the call.

2020 Vice-Chairman, Robert Simpson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

The following members of the Environmental Advisory Council answered roll call: Robert Simpson, Robert Cornman, Jane Mellert, Bruce Rabenold, and Stan Shelosky. Newly appointed member of the Environmental Advisory Council, Jeff Beavan, arrived at approximately 7:40 PM.

Also present was Township Manager/Secretary to the Environmental Advisory Council, Tom Petrucci.

Now that the roll call of the Environmental Advisory Council is completed, we will proceed with a roll call of all members of the public who are participating on this call. Please state your name(s) one at a time so the Township can make sure that your participation is recognized.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:

None

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom Petrucci reported that Terry Kleintop, who had served as a member and Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) for a number of years, tendered his resignation as a member of the EAC via emailed correspondence that was sent earlier in the afternoon.

It was also identified that Robin Dingle was no longer a member of the EAC, as she had indicated that she would not be interested in serving another term on the EAC. Jeff Beavan was appointed to the EAC to a full term as a member of the EAC. Tom Petrucci, Township Manager, was appointed as Secretary of the Environmental Advisory Council during the Monday, January 4, 2021 reorganization meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

I. NOMINATION OF EAC CHAIRPERSON FOR 2021

Discussion was held amongst the members as to who would serve as Chairperson for 2021. It was identified that Terry Kleintop was extremely committed and dedicated to the position and had put in additional hours outside of EAC meetings (including attendance at Regional EAC meetings and other various meetings).

ACTION: Bob Simpson made a motion to nominate Bob Cornman to serve as the Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Council for 2021. The motion was seconded by Bruce Rabenold.

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

The motion was approved. Vote 4-0-1, with Bob Cornman abstaining.

II. NOMINATION OF EAC VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2021

ACTION: Jane Mellert made a motion to nominate Bob Simpson to serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Council for 2021. The motion was not seconded.

ACTION: Bob Simpson made a motion to nominate Stan Shelosky to serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Council for 2021. The motion was seconded by Jane Mellert.

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.

III. APPROVAL OF 2020 EAC YEAR END REPORT

ACTION: Bob Simpson made a motion to approve the 2020 EAC Year End Report (DRAFT) that was prepared by Jane Mellert, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Stan Shelosky.

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.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – November 2, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes

ACTION: Bruce Rabenold made a motion to approve the November 2, 2020 Draft EAC Meeting Minutes, as submitted. The motion was seconded by Bob Simpson.

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.

V. MEETING BUSINESS:

1. Plainfield Township Clean Fill Regulations Ordinance Professional Planning Consulting Services (DRAFT dated December 30, 2020) Request for Proposals (RFP)- Review by EAC

Township Manager Petrucci had previously prepared a draft “Plainfield Township Clean Fill Regulations Ordinance Professional Planning Consulting Services Request for Proposals (RFP)” document, and it was forwarded to the EAC members on December 30, 2020.

Late in 2020, Plainfield Township was awarded a \$10,000.00 grant from the Lehigh Valley Greenways/Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc. to develop and adopt a Clean Fill Regulations Ordinance. The grant has a \$10,000.00 matching funds requirement from the Township and a completion deadline of October 31, 2020. Due to the complexity of the regulations, a consultant is necessary to work on this project. Tom Petrucci was seeking the input and feedback of the EAC members

on the RFP document. It was noted that the EAC will be actively involved in this project from the onset of the program, including the selection of the consultant, to the conclusion of the adoption process.

Bob Cornman asked how many consultants in the area would possess the necessary expertise to work on this type of project in accordance with the scope of work. Tom Petrucci stated that there is at least one firm in the Lehigh Valley area that has obtained a niche market on the development of ordinances (and the Township has worked with this firm in the past); however, it was opinion that the PennBid online bidding system will allow the Township to solicit proposals from a wide variety of firms.

Bob Simpson asked if the EAC members will be able to review the submitted proposals (this was answered in the affirmative), and he stated that the successful consultant should have vast knowledge and experience in groundwater, soils, and rock. The consultant should possess knowledge and extensive experience in the drafting of ordinance regulations, but the level of expertise of the consultant should not be narrowly construed to only drafting ordinances. Stan Shelosky indicated that the consultant must also have professional environmental engineering experience. Tom Petrucci stated that this project may require consultants to partner together their own unique expertise (including the drafting of ordinances and professional environmental engineering expertise).

Stan Shelosky recommended that the Scope of Work should be made more specific. Stan Shelosky inquired as to whether an inventory of the quarries in the Township should be made. He also stated that these regulations will be stricter than Pennsylvania, so we will be looking at regulations that are more similar to New York and New Jersey (and identified the fact that the fill will be coming from those locales).

Bob Simpson stated that Pennsylvania and its many quarries are being identified as ideal locations for fill material from areas in New Jersey that does not meet the standards that are in place in New Jersey. Bob Simpson also stated that the regulations should apply to any fill projects and not be isolated to quarries. It was stated that the clean fill regulations will be developed to apply to any fill being brought into the Township, and the ordinance will be utilized as a model for the Lehigh Valley Greenways municipalities and the Lehigh Valley region.

Bob Simpson also indicated that the consultant should have experience and knowledge of the clean fill regulations that are in place for New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The main concern is what metals can leach out of the fill material and impact the groundwater. The consultant

should look at specific contaminants for this area and draft regulations that are in accordance with those contaminants.

Stan Shelosky indicated that the provisions should account for Zoning, the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, and the Stormwater Management Ordinance.

Bob Cornman asked if the regulations would need to align with the current ordinances of the Township, and the response was that the consultant should be responsible to ensure that the regulations will be consistent with existing ordinances (and repeal certain inconsistent sections where necessary).

The EAC members expressed the sentiment that the Township is not simply looking for model ordinances from other municipalities or agencies. The ordinance should be specific to the Township and the region.

Bruce Rabenold asked if Tom Petrucci was proficient with the PennBid system, and Tom indicated that the system is extremely efficient and transparent, and that he has a high level of confidence in using the system.

Jeff Beavan arrived in the meeting, and he indicated that he did not have any comments concerning the draft RFP.

Tom Petrucci will revise the draft RFP and send it out via email to the EAC members. The EAC members will be asked to provide their comments on the revision via email in lieu of reviewing the document at an upcoming meeting of the EAC.

2. Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan- 2021 Approved Action Plan dated December 9, 2020 (Approved by Board of Supervisors)

Tom Petrucci had provided the Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan- 2021 Approved Action Plan dated December 9, 2020 to the EAC members. The Board of Supervisors are in agreement that the EAC should work on those action items. Tom Petrucci asked for action from the EAC members to make the following action item a priority of the EAC at the beginning of 2021:

Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan Task 3: Authorize the Environmental Advisory Council to commence working on a program to accept and rank applications for the preservation of natural areas. Additionally, the program would prospectively and proactively rank open space areas of the Township that are recommended for preservation (i.e. other than applications received). Templates already implemented by other municipalities should be obtained, reviewed, revised as necessary, and considered for implementation at Plainfield Township. Direct

involvement with the Board of Supervisors will be required. Additionally, the administrative policies and procedures at the level of the Municipal Office will need to be developed, reviewed and implemented.

Jane Mellert noted that the Board of Supervisors had indicated that they were in support of open space projects that would preserve environmentally sensitive lands along the riparian buffer corridors and the recreation trail. It was noted that additional approval is not required from the Board of Supervisors to work on this endeavor. Tom Petrucci will obtain sample policies from other municipalities and give the EAC members options to consider, and then a recommendation will be made to the Board of Supervisors. This item would be placed on the February 1, 2021 EAC agenda.

ACTION: Bob Simpson made a motion to direct Township Manager Petrucci to provide options and information to the Environmental Advisory Council members for the Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan Task 3. The motion was seconded by Stan Shelosky.

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 6-0.

3. Recognition of Terry Kleintop

ACTION: Bob Cornman made a motion that once the Board of Supervisors have accepted the resignation of Terry Kleintop during the Wednesday, January 13, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting to direct Township Manager Petrucci to draft a letter to Terry Kleintop thanking him for the many years of support and dedication he has given the Township from an environmental standpoint. The motion was seconded by Jane Mellert.

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 6-0.

Bob Cornman requested to sign the letter being sent to Mr. Kleintop.

The Environmental Advisory Council members welcomed Jeff Beavan as a new member of the EAC.

VI. 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)*

*In addition to direct public participation during the meeting, written comments concerning any listed agenda items may be submitted to the Township Manager by way of an email to manager@plainfieldtownship.org or via U.S. Mail C/O Township Manager, Plainfield Township, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Environmental Advisory Council, motion was made by Stan Shelosky and seconded by Bob Simpson to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Vote 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci
Township Manager/Secretary
Plainfield Township