

**Plainfield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting  
February 5, 2018**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, February 5, 2018, at 7:00 pm at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Those in attendance were:

Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairman	Robert Cornman – EAC Vice Chairman absent
Robin Dingle – EAC Member	Don Moore – EAC Member
Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member	Robert Simpson – EAC Member
Jane Mellert, EAC Secretary and Member	Tom Petrucci – Plainfield Twp. Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The pledge of allegiance was performed.

**Also in attendance** – Charlie Schmehl, Vice President of Urban Research and Development Corporation

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Motion – January 8, 2018 Minutes** - A motion was made by Don Moore and seconded by Bruce Rabenold to approve the January 8, 2018 minutes. **Vote: 5 Yes with Bob Simpson abstaining**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Mini-Grant Appalachian Trail Conservancy Assessment and Evaluation of Plainfield Township’s SALDO and Zoning Ordinances** - \$17,500 Grant, Plainfield Township Matching Funds \$3,500.00. On June 14, 2017 the Board of Supervisors awarded the Professional Services Contract to URDC in the bid award amount of \$16,900. Charlie Schmehl, Vice President of URDC was present at the meeting to review the 4<sup>th</sup> draft of the revised zoning regulations dated January 3, 2018.

There is a June 30, 2018 deadline for the work to be completed under the grant. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission must see the final wording of the Ordinance Amendment 30 days prior to adoption.

The following documents were handed by Charlie Schmehl for review:

- Revised Draft dated 2/1/2018 of the Zoning Amendment
- Plainfield Township - Appalachian Trail Conservation Overlay Districts 2018 Map
- Plainfield Township - Viewshed February 2018
- Plainfield Township – Slope Elevations

**PART 1. Tree Protection and Timber Harvesting**

Ann Hutchinson reviewed the draft regulations and sent a letter dated January 10, 2018 with her recommendations. Tom Petrucci, Terry Kleintop and Jane Mellert met with Ann Hutchinson of the Natural Lands Trust and Brook Mountcastle an environmental planner with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy on January 11, 2018.

Terry spoke to John Nissen a Service Forester and asked if he could meet with some of the EAC members on Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday of this week. He is a government employee. Terry Kleintop will set up the meeting for Friday at 1:30pm at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building. Tom Petrucci, Charlie Schmehl, Don Moore, Jane Mellert and John Lezoche will attend the meeting. The meeting is open for other EAC members that would like to attend.

Brooks Mountcastle previously sent Tom Petrucci GIS files. The files were forwarded to Charlie Schmehl.

Charlie Schmehl reviewed the content of the maps that were handed out.

- Plainfield Township - Appalachian Trail Conservation Overlay Districts 2018 Map
- Plainfield Township - Viewshed February 2018
- Plainfield Township – Slope Elevations

US Fish and Wildlife will acquire land in the Appalachian Trail Conservation area. This will mean that there will be less landowners in that area and will help with conservation efforts.

**Page 23** - Charlie Schmehl noted that if the overlay of the Appalachian Trail Conservation area has a significant impact on the zoning area in the primary and secondary conservation areas, then the zoning will need to be updated, advertised and go through the proper process.

**Page 2 – 4 (11)** Change 8 inch (DBH) to 6 inch (DBH) . Jane Mellert asked why the diameter was changed to 8 inch and is now being requested to revert back to 6 inch. The time frame was also increased to 24 months. *The members meeting with the Service Forester on Friday will ask him for a recommendation.*

**Page 3** – Section number 7 on page 3 will be merged with number 9 on page 7. Number 7.B. (3) \$800 per year will be removed.

**Page 4** - Number 7.B. (4) will be removed.

**Page 9** – 27-519. – 8 inches (DBH) will be changed to 6 inches (DBH).  
**Information on insect damaged trees will be included.**

**Clear Cutting** - Several EAC members voiced their concern that to allow for a clear cut harvest a regeneration plan should be required. Robin Dingle recommended changing regeneration to revegetation. This would allow for other acceptable land restoration methods to be utilized.

The EAC discussed whether to separate the Timber Harvesting regulations out of the draft zoning revisions in order to move the remaining sections for review by the Planning Commission. The revised draft will be reviewed on Friday by a Service Forester. The information that comes out of the meeting can be reviewed at the next EAC meeting in March.

**Page 18** - Part 6. Solar Energy Systems J. (1) – (10) will be removed. An applicant will be required to meet the zoning setbacks and yard requirements.

**Part 7. Springwater and Groundwater Withdrawals - Page 19** – The main new provision would limit the use if it involves substantial heavy truck traffic to locations within a one mile radius of a ramp of Route 33. Due to the majority of roads in the Township that are not suitable for that type of traffic. The Township should retain the authority to regulate water withdrawal for traditional land use regulation matters, while some other matters are preempted under state law and the Delaware River Basin Commission regulations. Water withdrawals for agriculture purposes would not be regulated. Water withdrawals in the Blue Mountain Conservation zoning district should also be prohibited.

**Page 19** – Number 10.- 25 trucks will be changed to 10 trucks.

Charlie will submit a revision of the zoning amendment by email before Friday.

**Northampton County Farmland Preservation – County/Municipal Partnership Program Update**

Tom Petrucci spoke to Maria and it is his general understanding that there is not much activity in Plainfield Township for 2018.

There is an applicant for the Planning Commission agenda. The application is located at 1105 Mill Rd and utilizes Conservation by Design.

Jane Mellert spoke about the state of dairy farming in the State of Pennsylvania and Plainfield Township. A transition is occurring. Several area dairy farms were given a deadline by the dairy and the milk will no longer be picked up from our area. The front page news of a Lancaster County newspaper was titled Milk Sours. The article details the state of dairy in Pennsylvania and notes that many farmers will be selling off their herds due to the inability to make enough profit to pay bills and continue.

**Plainfield Township Earned Income Tax Collection for Open Space Discussion**

- Tom Petrucci noted that the Board of Supervisors has been very open to applying for a grant for an official map. The grant is due in March of 2018. The cost is approximately \$10,000 and \$5,000 will be requested for grant funding.
- The Board needs to give direction on what can be done with the EIT money. The areas to be protected and answer the question of who is responsible to maintain the land after it is protected.
- Tom Petrucci noted the current grant project needs to be finished prior to the EAC reviewing the alternate uses for the Earned Income Tax funds.
- A survey of the Township should be conducted when considering the purchase of additional properties, such as, ponds, and additional recreation facilities.

**PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant- Little Bushkill Creek**

The Stuber and Achenbach plans are being finalized by Jason. He is also working on the final report. The grant must close out by the end of 2018.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** -None

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion - Meeting Adjournment** – A motion was made by Don Moore and seconded by Robin Dingle to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm. **Vote 6 Yes**

The next EAC meeting will be held on March 5, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary  
Plainfield Township EAC

1<sup>st</sup> draft from February 5, 2018