

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
January 14, 2020**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Those in attendance were:

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

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

Also in attendance – Jason Smith Hanover Engineering Associates Inc.

The Board of Supervisors approved the following appointments to the EAC at the annual reorganization meeting held on January 6, 2020 at 5:30pm.:

- Terry Kleintop - 3 year term
- Bruce Rabenold – 3 year term
- Stan Shelosky – term expiring 1/1/2022
- Jane Mellert - EAC Secretary

Nomination of EAC Chairperson

Motion for EAC Chairperson – Bob Cornman made a motion to nominate Terry Kleintop for the EAC Chairperson position. The motion was seconded by Robin Dingle.

Vote: 5 Yes with Terry Kleintop abstaining from the vote.

Nomination of Vice Chairperson

Motion for EAC Vice-Chairperson – Bob Cornman made a motion to nominate Robin Dingle for the EAC Vice Chairperson position. The motion was seconded by Bruce Rabenold

Vote: 5 Yes with Robin Dingle abstaining from the vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – November 4, 2019 Minutes - A motion was made by Bob Cornman to approve the November 4, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Bruce Rabenold

Vote: 6 Yes

APPROVAL OF THE 2019 EAC YEAR END REPORT

Motion – 2019 EAC Year End Report- A motion was made by Bob Cornman to approve the 2019 EAC Year End Report. The motion was seconded by Robin Dingle. Prior to the vote being taken Terry Kleintop requested an addition to the report to clarify the Little Bushkill Creek impaired status.

Vote: 6 Yes

NEW EAC MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Terry Kleintop introduced and welcomed Stan Shelosky the new member to the EAC – Stan worked as a Civil Engineer for 40 years. During his college days he was involved in conservation. Stan noted this is his chance to come full circle. He is now retired and would like to help the group deal with the issues addressed by the EAC.

NEW BUSINESS

Northampton County Conservation District - Sharon Pletchan, District Manager for the NCCD, and Jim Clauser, Agricultural Conservation Specialist were scheduled to discuss the current level of compliance monitoring and/or enforcement for mandated agricultural conservation plans for farms that are participating in Act 319/515 Clean and Green. **Due to a scheduling conflict they were unable to attend the meeting. Their attendance has been tentatively scheduled for the February 3, 2020 meeting.**

2020 Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant – Deadline January 17, 2020 TK had brought it up due to thinking it would be supplemental dollars. There is not enough time to address submission for the grant.

Senate Bill 790 and House Bill 2635 – There is pending legislation legalizing the dumping of conventional oil and gas drilling wastewater onto unpaved roads. PA Senator Joe Scarnati's is involved with the Bill. The Bill addresses utilizing water from conventional drilling (fracking) on dirt roads to keep the dust down. It is currently in Committee. The vote was 27-23 with the Senators. Terry Kleintop is not sure what the DEP's position is on the Bill. Tom Petrucci does not think that the Bill has much traction to pass at this time. Tom noted that the Township has the discretion to determine if this is can done on Township roadways.

Pennsylvania Land Trust Association Local Government Conservation Leadership Award
Plainfield Township won the LVPC 2019 Environmental Award and now are nominated by the **Lehigh Valley Greenways** as a candidate for the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association Local Government Conservation Leadership Award.

OLD BUSINESS

PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant deadline December 31, 2019 - Little Bushkill Creek:
Jason Smith of Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc. was present at the meeting.
Tom Petrucci reviewed the contents of the letter from the Board of Supervisors to the EAC dated November 20, 2019. The letter notes the following:

The Board of Supervisors took official action to approve the assignment of the following task to the EAC:

Proceed with developing the scope of work for the continued water sampling and monitoring along the Little Bushkill Creek. The sampling would be done in targeted areas that were recommended in the 2018 Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan.

The scope of work is to include the following sections of the stream:

1. Project East Branch – Develop water sampling plans for Browntown, Benders Church, Heimer and Delabole Roads.
2. East Branch – Grand Central Woods headwaters
3. Project West Branch – Develop water sampling plans from Williams pipeline to Wendy/Arby's/Wind Gap Municipal border

The Board of Supervisors have directed the EAC to more narrowly develop the above-identified scope of work and to provide a report back to the Board of Supervisors prior to the expenditure of any Plainfield Township funds. Once the scope of work is delineated by the EAC and reviewed by the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors will consider relevant next steps, up to and including the approval of the expenditure of the Township funds that are required to complete the scope of work. The Board will also review the scope of work in order to determine the feasibility of submitting a request for grant funding through the Department of Environmental Protection.

Robin Dingle recommended the following:

- The EAC write a two page letter with a map with ballpark costs. This would be a skeleton to compile a Request for Proposal document.
- A sub-committee of the EAC can be created to write the document. The sub-committee would meet with Jason Smith. The work should be able to be completed in one night.
- The document written by the sub-committee would then be reviewed by the EAC at the February 3, 2020 meeting
- The document reviewed and approved by the EAC would then be sent to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at the February 12, 2020 meeting.
- Robin Dingle read a portion out of the Little Bushkill Creek 2018 Watershed Management Plan. The section included information on the scope of work for long term monitoring. The information should be included in the scope of work to be submitted to the Board for their review.

Tom Petrucci noted that Jason would be paid as the Environmental Consultant. The work has been budgeted in the 2020 Township Budget. The areas for potential streambank restoration have been identified.

An RFP will need to be done to conduct the testing. Jason Smith noted hiring an firm to conduct the testing can also be handled by hiring for professional services. Then an RFP would not be required.

The sub-committee will develop scope of work for a sampling plan. Terry Kleintop asked how much testing do we want to do. If we get good test results will the results be submitted to DEP to try to delist sections of the stream. In order to submit testing information the plan will need to meet the PA DEP testing requirements. Robin Dingle noted that we do not need a full report but DEP would need data tables, and an executive summary with results and conclusions.

Terry Kleintop noted if we have concerns about certain properties then it is time to have the SEO involved to find out if there are problem areas. The Taylor property should be addressed. We can't just keep spending on testing on the stream without addressing the areas where septic problems may need to be corrected. Jason Smith noted that there should be some additional testing to look at some of the hot spots that were previously identified. The report should be focused. Robin Dingle noted there is an obligation that the Township has to the residents regarding test results from the stream.

The EAC Sub - Committee Members for the Little Bushkill Creek continued sampling and monitoring scope of work are as follows:

- Jason Smith, Hanover Engineering Associates
- Robin Dingle, EAC Vice Chairperson
- Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairperson
- Stan Shelosky, EAC Member
- Tom Petrucci, Plainfield Township Manager

The EAC Sub-Committee meetings will be held from 4pm to 6pm. The first meeting will be scheduled for January 20, 2020 from 4pm to 7pm and will be held at the Plainfield Township municipal building.

MS4

The Township applied for another \$100,000 grant to help meet the MS4 sediment reduction requirements. The Township needs to get stream bank restoration projects done and work to meet the MS4 requirements by September 2023. It was noted that there are no written requirements for stream bank restoration.

Tom Petrucci met with DCNR. The next step is to meet with Wildlands to review how the project will be completed by 2023. This work is not under the Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan. Tom is meeting with Wildland Conservancy representatives next week. He will get answers to several questions. Wildlands representatives are Kate Eagle and Kristie Fach. DCNR representatives are Kelly Rossiter and Shane Clymer – Project Manager

ACT 537

- 1. Sampling wells and reviewing septic systems – Ott Consulting**
- 2. Reviewing all of the data as part of the ACT 537 report. – Entech Engineering**

Tom Petrucci noted that Entech is working on the Act 537 which has not been updated since the 1990's. The plan indicates where sewage disposal needs are adequate, inadequate, and/or need updating. The process has been started to collect the base data.

Water quality testing of wells, and surveys of some on lot septic systems was conducted in the fall by Ott Consulting Engineers. The surveys and data collected will help to determine what changes need to be considered for the future. Entech is now reviewing the data Ott employees collected. This information will be utilized for the basis of the plan. A scoping meeting was held with DEP at their office prior to the start of work. Since the plan was old surveys were required to be conducted. The MS4 program is not connected. **The surveys may show some areas where there are discharges into the stream that could help the MS4 program.** At this point no major red flags have come up. The updated Act 537 Plan should be completed by the summer of 2020. Entech's findings will help to determine if sewer upgrades are needed and whether it is financially feasible. Stockertown is connecting to the Easton sewer plant. Plainfield Township is being given an option to have a line for future use.

Valley Industrial Property – Has now submitted the grading plan which is basically the NPDES plan. The plan was reviewed by the EAC in November of 2019. Bruce Rabenold inquired about the possibility of the work creating problem areas. The project involves wetland mitigation work. Jason Smith noted it can be a concern when the construction is done problem areas can be created. It remains to be seen after it is constructed.

Light Hawk Fly Over – Terry Kleintop explained a program available through William Penn called the Light Hawk Fly Over. A plane flies over designated areas and conducts video graphing. The pilot and cost of the plane is covered by William Penn. This should be done in March or early April before the leaves are on the trees. Anything that you want to bring forward should be considered. It is an opportunity for municipalities, watersheds, etc. It will be done by the WCLV. If interested Terry can take it through the Bushkill Stream Conservancy. Tom Petrucci noted the EAC should send a letter to the Board in order to request approval for the fly over to be conducted.

Benefits – This is one step better than you get from Google Earth. Video quality from fly overs can be of a good quality or poor quality. It needs to be determined why we need it. Jason Smith noted that Bushkill Township used a drone for pictures of the Township parks and properties.

Tom Petrucci noted the public could be concerned that this would be used to enforce zoning. Bob Cornman noted if we find a definite use for it then it can be considered, but we don't have enough information at this time. Terry noted maybe the sub-committee could answer some of the questions.

Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape Listening Sessions

Terry Kleintop and Bruce Rabenold attended the Kittatinny Ridge Coalition, Audubon Pennsylvania and Appalachian Trail Conservancy session which was held in December 2019. The Kittatinny Coalition has embarked on the development of a Strategic Plan to guide their work over the next five to ten years. Three listening sessions were scheduled in order to ask questions, listen, and learn from key stakeholders along the Ridge and Corridor. It was noted Brooks Mountcastle left the Conservancy a short time ago.

ACT 24 of 2008 was passed by the Legislature and then the Township's assumed the responsibility to adopt regulations to protect the Kittatinny Ridge. *Plainfield Township is one of the few municipalities that moved forward with implementing an Ordinance to address the ACT 24 regulations.* Several people that put on the presentation are with Federal agencies. A report is being put together from the presentation and will be put on the website. Bruce Rabenold noted that the meeting did not address pipelines, water parks, etc. and didn't seem to have a plan to put it together. Tom noted he spoke to representatives by phone and he noted that the information needs to be made more tangible in how different uses effect people.

Judy Hinkel from UMBT and Bob Romano from Moore also attended the event.

Northampton County Farmland Preservation – County/Municipal Partnership – 2019 and 2020

- **2019** – 1 farm listed as #6 on the County ranking list is on Capp Road.(Matayas) The property will be reviewed by the State in February. The closing may take place around April of 2020.
- **2020** – There were 3 applications from Plainfield Township for the 2020 program. All of the properties are ranked and are eligible. The properties will be preserved with State and County money if the owners accept the appraised easement value and decide to move forward with land preservation.

A EAC discussed future use of the current Open Space Funds and continued collection of earned income tax to preserve land areas.

Terry Kleintop noted that in the past Frable, Lennox and Stuber applied for Farmland Preservation. The properties did not meet the ranking requirements. It was also noted that the Zeleski property was not finalized and preserved.

744 Rasleytown Road Property

The property is located along the Plainfield Township recreational trail. The Township can consider purchasing the land utilizing Open Space Funds. Any environmental issues would need to be addressed along with considering the effects to adjoining neighbors. The EAC reviewed this matter in a prior year and were in favor of purchasing the property.

EAC members agreed that purchase of the property would be beneficial to the whole. It would provide additional parking for the recreation trail and help to preserve an area listed on the Official Map. The land area is located near the Little Bushkill Creek. A house which was located on the property burned down many years ago and the land has been vacant since that time.

Motion - Bob Cornman made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting the Board consider purchase of the Rasleytown Road property using Open Space Funds. Chairperson Terry Kleintop will sign the letter on behalf of the EAC. Bruce Rabenold seconded the motion.

Vote 6 Yes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Robin Dingle to adjourn the EAC meeting at 9:03 pm.

Vote: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary
Plainfield Township EAC