

**Plainfield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting  
November 4, 2019**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Those in attendance were:

Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairman	Robert Cornman – EAC Member
Robin Dingle – EAC Member - absent	Don Moore – EAC Member - arrived at 7:12pm
Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member	Robert Simpson – EAC Vice-Chairman
Jane Mellert, EAC Secretary and Member	Tom Petrucci – Plainfield Twp. Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop and the pledge of allegiance was performed.

**Also in attendance** – Mike Kukles, Ott Consulting Engineers, Jason Smith (7:52pm) Hanover Engineering Associates Inc., and resident Paul Rinaldi

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Motion – August 5, 2019 Minutes** - A motion was made by Bob Cornman to approve the August 5, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Bruce Rabenold

**Vote: 5 Yes**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Valley Industrial Properties** – Submitting Engineer Base Engineering

**Submission Date** – October 18, 2019

**Project** – Construct wetlands to mitigate wetland disturbance (which is located at the Capital Blvd site)

**Location - Mack Road Property 25.17 acres** located in the Commercial Industrial District of Plainfield Township – The scope of work contains two properties approximately 5 miles apart. The main project is Capital Boulevard located in East Bangor, Upper Mount Bethel Township, and Washington Township.

**Representatives present for the review**

Amit Mukherjee M.S.P.E Base Engineering

Steven Kolbe – Portland Properties and Valley Industrial Properties

Ashley Austin Valley Industrial Properties

Brian Hilliard Lehigh Consulting

Steffan Helbig P.G. STEP Inc.

**Steve Kolbe** described the project. There are two properties involved with the wetland mitigation work. The DEP has approved the wetland to be mitigated in Plainfield Township. A hole next to the area can be filled in when they go to the next step. The land is located in the Commercial/Industrial zoning district. This is the first phase. In a couple of years they will move toward the next phase.

**Bob Cornman** asked what the EAC’s objective is for the review.

**Township Manager Tom Petrucci** answered this is a review of the submission. It is not a land development or subdivision. Due to the complexity of the site he wanted to make sure that the Township doesn't miss something that could end up as an environmental problem down the line. Tom will have to issue the land use letter in a couple of days. A land use letter asks does the Township have a comprehensive plan, whether it falls under the use within the district as under the requirements of an ACT 167 notification. It is the function of the EAC to review environmentally sensitive plans. The plan does not fall under subdivision or zoning.

**Steven Kolbe presented a power point presentation and presented the following information:**

- The area with the overburden has been vegetated with trees over the past 70 years.
- The land is bordered by property owned by Walter Schlegel.
- 1.5 acres of wetlands was approved by DEP in 2015
- They are looking at moving the stone and filling in the quarry with the stone and expanding the wetlands on the property. Utilizing the stockpiled fill material onsite to fill in.
- The property was purchased for the specific intent to expand the wetlands. There is no construction planned. This would assist with bringing the property back to its natural condition.
- Above the property and around the other boarders there are wetland areas.
- They are proposing to put in a wooded wetland with native plantings planned by a biologist. Extensive plantings will be brought in in year 1 and 2. The area would then be monitored for 7 years.
- The property is being used to offset the (original 102 and 105 permit) Capital Auto Parts land by using the Mack Road property to mitigate the wetlands.
- The property borders the Grand Central Woods.
- The quarry hole is 50 feet deep. They think in the past they were pumping the water out of the smaller pit to the larger pit (1939). There are areas with a very shallow water table.
- The Southeast section is near an old farmhouse that is not occupied.
- They may need additional soils.
- The properties would continue to be owned until the wetlands have been developed then there is a possibility of it going to a conservancy.
- There is a possibility of getting another 15 acres of wetland on the property (total acreage is 25 acres) Wetland banking has been successful in other areas.
- They are monitoring the ground water to ensure the project will be successful. May do a pre and post water test on the well on the Schlegel property.
- The DEP says conceptually the plan makes sense. They have to go through the required steps and then unto the final technical review.

**Terry Kleintop** noted what took place with filling of area quarries located in Washington Township and how it affected the Green Walk Trout hatchery and possibly Nestle water. Mr. Hilliard noted that there is an allowance in a level of change to water quality and it didn't exceed the standard. Steven Kolbe noted that they monitor wells in order to have documentation regarding the water quality that way if accusation are made they have the past monitoring data.

**Bob Simpson** asked what will feed the future wetland. There is an area where a small pipe approximately 4 inch in diameter was found. Brian Hilliard thinks that the prior mining operation was capturing the water. It appears that the water flow near the pipe is constant.

**Mike Kukles** noted there may be concerns about water quality. He asked if the groundwater monitoring was done on just the groundwater table or if there was there water quality testing.

**Steffan Helbig** noted that water elevation measuring was started two months ago.

**Brian Hilliard** noted wetland plantings would be started in the spring of 2020. The property will be required to conduct monitoring until the DEP grants approval for an official wetland. The permit for the mitigation was a joint permit with the Army Corp.

**Jason Smith** noted there is a deed restriction listed. He also noted there is going to be concern due to the number of quarries that exist in the area. When quarries are filled in it raises residents concern about fill material coming in from out of State. The concern is due to the State of Pennsylvania having requirements more lenient than that of our neighboring states. Jason went onsite (with permission) to observe the area. It was noted that only fill from the site and hydric soils from the Capital property will be utilized.

**Kevin Keat** is the biologist being utilized for both properties.

**Tom Petrucci** is looking for feedback on how the project should be handled. He would be looking to Mike Kukles and Jason Smith on how the fill should be handled and if testing should be required.

**Bob Simpson** suggested having some groundwater monitoring to prove the fill that goes into the area does not affect the water quality. The quarry is 50 ft deep so when you fill the bottom it can affect water levels.

**Brian Hilliard** noted the most effective way would be for a letter to be written to the DEP with the Township's comments. Then the Township would be involved in the ongoing technical review of the project. They will submit the information for a grading plan.

**Bob Cornman** asked if this will come before the EAC in the future. Tom Petrucci noted that it is not required. The plan is generally consistent with the land use.

**Don Moore** noted it may be necessary for topsoil to come in . The permit will State that it has to meet Pennsylvania Clean fill standards. The standard means that the fill can come from out of State. We need to make a comment to DEP noting that we are concerned about the quality standards for clean fill in the State of PA

**Brian Hilliard** noted he testified at the hearing held at the Wind Gap Middle School. He doesn't care where the soil comes from as long as the soil meets the standards and requirements where the soil is being placed. Brian has read about some of the stream testing the Township has been involved with.

**Tom Petrucci** noted the Township will probably not be able to get MS4 credit for the project. The Township may want to request monitoring wells and request to be involved in the ongoing technical review of the project.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW PA DEP Growing Greener Grant Application** - Tom Petrucci requested direction on applying for a new Growing Greener Grant. He inquired whether we want to work within the confines of the PA DEP guidelines or tailor our own projects. Any stream testing results should still be provided to the DEP. A grant application is due before the end of the year. At this point Tom does not believe the necessary time has been taken in order to develop the scope for the grant. We are already working on the ACT 537 plan and MS4 requirements. Tom recommends not pursuing a grant this year. The EAC

should proceed with the targeted areas listed for the stream and then plan to submit a grant application in 2020.

**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.

- The Achenbach and Stuber restoration projects have been completed. Flyway out of Lancaster will provide follow up work in the spring of 2020. Stuber has intent to put in a pasture.
- The discussion on continuation of sampling was delayed due to the October EAC meeting being cancelled. The EAC needs to request moving forward with developing the scope of work for the Little Bushkill Creek.

**Motion** - Bob Cornman made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking for permission and funding to continue with a scope of work for the Little Bushkill Creek. The motion was seconded by Don Moore --- **6 Yes**

**DCNR C2P2 Grant** – Can be utilized to implement streambank restoration. The Township should work with Wildlands in order to offset the grant. Wildlands should be involved with restoration projects.

The Township needs to update our model stormwater ordinance by 2022 and have implement a feces management program for animal feces within the Township.

**LVPC Awards** - Terry Kleintop announced that Plainfield Township won the 2019 Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Environmental Award for the Little Bushkill Creek Study and restoration work and the Community of Distinction award. Tom Petrucci noted an article about the awards will be published in the Township Newsletter.

**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**

**Northampton County Farmland Preservation – County/Municipal Partnership – 2019**

- Terry reported that the farm listed as #6 on the County ranking list located in Plainfield Township on Capp Road. The appraisal is was approved and they are moving forward with the survey. The property will be reviewed by the State in February 2020. The closing may take place around April of 2020.
- It was noted that the Zeleski property was not finalized and preserved.
- The new application process for farmland preservation in 2020 is open. At this point we have not heard of any landowners interested in applying.

Don Moore – read from the July 2019 minutes regarding run off issues Tom sent a letter to the Northampton County Conservation District. He has not received a response to date. (Conservation Plans are being monitored) Tom will conduct a follow up phone call.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion - Meeting Adjournment** – A motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Don Moore to adjourn the EAC meeting at 9: 10 pm.

**Vote: 6 Yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary  
Plainfield Township EAC