

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
December 3, 2018**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, December 3, 2018 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 Vice Chairman
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 and the pledge of allegiance was performed.

Also in attendance – Jason Smith

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – November 5, 2018 Minutes - A motion was made by Bob Simpson and seconded by Bob Cornman to approve the November 5, 2018 minutes.

Vote: 7 Yes

OLD BUSINESS

PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant - Little Bushkill Creek – Revised Schedule:

- 1. The PA DEP approved a Growing Greener grant time extension until December 31, 2019**
- 2. December 3rd - The draft plan was reviewed at the EAC meeting with Jason Smith. Jason provided a power point presentation.**

- Robin, Terry and Tom met with Jason Smith on December 3rd before the 7 pm EAC meeting. Their entire review of the plan was not complete prior to the start of the meeting.
- Jason Smith noted that if there is an indication of human pathogens in the stream then the municipality has to address the issue. It was noted that in some areas there were only specific months that the tests were high for fecal coliform. Jason explained that during high rain events septic systems will leach out. Robin Dingle noted more sampling should be required. The information for Wind Gap is for one year data. More sampling and mapping of the results could be beneficial. A warm temperature as noted in the data, affects the growth of bacteria and the testing results. It was noted the data must be consistent.
- The East branch of the Little Bushkill located in Plainfield Township has problem areas as well as sections coming in from Wind Gap. Tom Petrucci noted Wind Gap Borough is relying on the WGSA (Wind Gap Sewer Authority). It was reported the sewer authority is looking into applying for grants to assess the sewer system.
- Section 5.2.4 titled General Recommendations on page 48 and 49 of the plan lists Hanover Engineering’s recommendations for moving forward.
- Bob Simpson noted that the Township has additional data from previous sampling.

- Section 5.2.1.1 lists Wind Gap Borough. The results of the 2016 – 2017 sampling program indicate that there is likelihood for “inflow and infiltration” problems in many areas of the aging wastewater collection system.
- One of the overall objectives of the Plainfield Township study is to delist sections of the stream so that the Township will not fall under TMDL (total maximum daily load) requirements.
- Terry Kleintop noted that sampling should take place at Male Road. Robin Dingle would like additional sampling in several areas in order to try and pinpoint problem areas. There were 7 locations in Wind Gap that were sampled twice.
- The Delabole Road Tributary listed on sheet 5 indicates that based on the data there are probably residential septic leaching into the stream as well as animals having access to the stream.
- It was questioned whether any of the farms located along the stream have applied bio solids to the land.
- The Northampton County Conservation District should also be involved in notifying property owners that need to be brought into compliance. Nathan Pritchard is the Northampton County representative.
- EAC Members agreed the plan recommendations need to be very forward moving but broken into manageable projects. Some areas may need fencing, others riparian buffers, and in some areas septic testing.

3. Spring 2019 - The final draft plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors and a public presentation will be given for the Board of Supervisors.

Terry Kleintop, Robin Dingle, Tom Petrucci and Jason Smith will have another review meeting prior to the January 2019 EAC meeting. Due to the January EAC agenda being dedicated to working on the Official Map, a special meeting may be necessary

Terry Kleintop would like to have some targeted sampling areas where there are known problems. He asked if the Environmental Fund could pay for the testing.

Official Map - Lehigh Valley Greenways Grant “Plainfield Township Official Map Adoption” project (contract no. C2P2-22-LVG-22.10) project schedule:

1. November 5th 2018 – January 7th 2019 - The EAC reviewed the Official Map landowner process outline. The following points were made during the discussion:

- **Claire Sadler D&L Director of Trails & Conservation** confirmed the Township Engineer can be utilized for the Official Map process as per the grant and State bid requirements.
- At the November 14, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting the Supervisors approved Mike Kukles from Ott Consulting Engineers as the Consultant for the Official Map process.
- Mike Kukles and Tom Petrucci are going to focus the project on the GIS system in order to save money. The map listing will include culverts owned by the Township that need replacement, and trail connections from the County level. Culverts will be shown for the following roads - Capp, Getz, Heimer, and Mud Run.
- The Recreation Board would like to show a trail from the Community Park to the Park at the Municipal Building.
- The map will also show stream and trail corridors. A 150 ft. buffer will be used as a guide. The map will assist with the MS4 pollution reduction plan (this will also help with the Little Bushkill Creek Study).

- The existing recreation trail will be broken out by Zoning Districts in order to consider the width of the buffers near certain districts, such as, the Industrial District.
- The County is considering multiple trail connections to Pen Argyl and the Appalachian Trail.
- The primary conservation zones (highest priority) of the Blue Mountain will be included.
- The EAC questioned whether the map will show additional trail parking and asked if there is a possibility of a parking area near Grand Central Road.
- It was noted that additional areas will be looked at by Northampton County when the County develops the Master Site Plan for the Gall Farm Park. Plainfield Township is contributing \$15,000 toward trail improvements.
- It was decided that the EAC needs to review the map with all of the designated information prior to deciding if the Official Map is going too far on regulations.
- Terry Kleintop questioned how the Official Map can be effective if the Timber Harvesting Ordinance is not passed.

Concerns regarding the State of Pennsylvania and local control were also discussed. It can be difficult to regulate and protect natural resources while not taking away property owner rights. The following topics were listed.

- Clean Fill and bio solids that are allowed to be brought from other areas and States.
 - Timber Harvesting
 - Chicken farms and backyard chickens.
2. **November 14th – January 18th** - Consultant Starts and Finishes Official Map Drawing Supervisors and Public.
 3. **January 7th – February 4th 2019** - Stormwater Management Areas, Greenways (included forested areas) and Drainage Easements
 4. **January 24th** - Public Meeting #1 (Review Parks/Playgrounds and Trails)
 5. **February 28th** - Public Meeting #2 (Review Storm water Management Areas and Greenways)
 6. **March 4th** - Public Hearing (Required as per MPC)
 7. **March 11th – April 25th** - 45 Day Comment Period Begins (Required as per MPC)
 8. **April 25th** – 45 Day Adoption Date – As per the Municipalities Planning Code an Ordinance will be required to adopt the Official Map.
 9. **May 1, 2019** - Lehigh Valley Greenways Grant Project Completion Date

It was noted that Bushkill Township has tried to protect the stream corridor with the Official Map. The Bushkill EAC oversees applications for development within the Official Map area. Program.

Zoning Revisions and Tree Protection Ordinance

Charlie Schmehl, VP at URDC is working on the revisions to the Ordinance. The final draft will be reviewed by the Planning Commission at the January meeting. The revised Ordinance will be re advertised and published on the Township website. The Board of Supervisors has to vote on approval of the revisions and to adopt the Ordinance.

Appalachian Trail Protection – The Zoning updates were funded through a grant and the Ordinance needs to be passed. If the Timber Harvesting Ordinance is held up then that portion will need to be removed from the Zoning amendments.

Northampton County Farmland Preservation and County/Municipal Partnership Program

Tom Petrucci reported there may be at least one property owner that will apply for the 2019 Northampton County Farmland Preservation

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tree of Heaven and Spotted Lanternfly

Tom Petrucci noted that Sharon Pletchen will be at the Township in January to provide education on the spotted lanternfly and the tree of heaven.

The January 2019 EAC meeting will be held on January 7, 2019 at 7 pm after the 5:30pm Board of Supervisors Reorganization meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Bob Simpson to adjourn the EAC meeting at 9:37 pm.

Vote: 7 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary
Plainfield Township EAC