

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

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, February 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	Don Moore – EAC Member
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 7:06 pm by EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop and the pledge of allegiance was performed.

**Also in attendance** – No attendees

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Motion – January 7, 2019 Minutes** - A motion was made by Robert Cornman to approve the January 7, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Bruce Rabenold.

**Vote: 7 Yes**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**EAC 2018 Year End Report**

**Motion – 2018 Year End Report** – A motion was made by Robin Dingle to approve the 2018 EAC Year End Report. The motion was seconded by Robert Cornman.

**Vote: 7 Yes**

**PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant deadline December 31, 2019 - Little Bushkill Creek:**

- Robin Dingle, Terry Kleintop and Tom Petrucci held a meeting regarding the study on February 4<sup>th</sup> prior to the EAC meeting. Another meeting will be scheduled with Jason Smith.
- Robin Dingle will be meeting with Jason Smith every week during February in order to complete the Sub-Consultant work on the Little Bushkill Study.
- A joint meeting of the EAC and Board of Supervisors will be held on March 26, 2019 at 7pm. to review the Little Bushkill Creek Study.

**Pollution Control Measures for Water Impaired by Pathogens – MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan Deadline September 30, 2023**

- Tom Petrucci reported that the RFP for the PCM (pollution control measures) is still in process.

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

**Review the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of Official Map - Tom** Petrucci reported some of the GIS files have been obtained for the Northern Tier Trail. The files are not compatible and were creating problems with the data. The following comments were made during the review discussion:

1. Tom Petrucci previously emailed the proposed draft ordinance to adopt an official map for the EAC Members to review. The draft ordinance was not discussed at the meeting.
2. The legend needs to be enlarged. It was noted the legend on Bushkill Township's Official Map is larger has less categories and is easier to follow.
3. Clarification should be given on the legend categories
4. The narrow red line indicating the Very High Conservation Priority areas needs to be revised in order view it clearly.
5. A key should be shown indicating what areas are designated for protection and what protection regulations are currently in place. There are current regulations in place regarding the following: Flood Plain, Steep slope, Trail Corridor, Riparian Buffer, Stream and watercourses
6. Marsh lands are shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft.
7. The EAC discussed the following: If a property is shown on the map for conservation and/or potential park area it can reduce the value of the land. The land location and land area will also impact how the Official Map will impact land value.

It was noted the Northern tier trail should be defined. How is it connecting to the Grand Central Environmental Education Center and the Grand Central Road trail link?

At the January 2019 meeting it was decided the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Official Map would be revised to show the following:

- Trail
- Trail parking lots and area along Getz Road which has potential for a new parking area
- Stream corridor
- Trail extensions
- The Blue Mountain Conservation area
- Grand Central Woods. The large tracts of woodlands were to be removed.
- Marshlands

A concern was raised regarding keeping the woodlands on steep slopes, in wet areas (marshland) and the property North of Abel Colony Road located near the Sullivan Trail Business area.

The members discussed opinions on how strict the conservation measures should be on the map. Opinions varied on how the map could affect property owner rights. If a property owner wants to develop an area shown on an Official Map the Township does have the authority to waive the one year right to negotiate.

**Motion** - A motion was made by Robert Cornman to make the following recommendation to the Board of Supervisors: After several months of review the EAC recommends that an official map should not be pursued and adopted. The motion died for lack of a second.

Terry Kleintop questioned why the Board wants an Official Map. Jane Mellert responded the Official Map was recommended by the EAC. The Board takes recommendations from the EAC and gives them serious consideration. The development and adoption of an Official Map was also recommended by the EAC when the Earned Income Tax study was conducted.

Jane Mellert noted the original idea for the Official map was to protect the Stream Corridor, Trails, Grand Central Woods, areas to help meet MS4 regulations, Blue Mountain Conservation Area, and the Appalachian Trail corridor. It was noted that there are already some regulations in place in Township Ordinances and Zoning.

EAC Members noted that concerns about roadways should be considered. The areas mentioned were Sharp curve on Abel Colony Road

One Lane Bridges

Intersection of Church and Sullivan Trail (both State Roads)

Intersection of Getz and Church

Mud Run needs protection

Terry Kleintop noted the stream temperature is extremely important for the Little Bushkill Creek. There is a bacteria problem in the stream. It was noted that some of the areas near the streams are already protected through the 125 foot stream bank (setback) corridor. Robin Dingle noted that some of the areas near the stream do not have forested areas to help keep the stream temperature lower in warm weather.

Tom Petrucci will remove some of the routes shown on the map to indicate travel routes from parks to the trail. The Grand Central Woods area would just show woodlands and the marsh area.

On Abel Colony Road – remove where a medical center is proposed

**A revised Official Map will be reviewed at a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors and the EAC Members on February 28, 2019 at 7:00pm.**

The Lehigh Valley Greenways Grant Project Completion Date for the Official Map is **May 1, 2019.**

**Stream side riparian buffers** – The Pollution Reduction Plan produced by Mike Kukles at Ott Engineering show many sites have already been identified. Robin Dingle noted that looking at the restoration measures listed in the report (bank restoration) the costs will go above what the Township has budgeted.

#### **Plainfield Township Conservation by Design Development Ordinance Proposed Revisions**

1. Tom Petrucci – Review of the long term revisions will be addressed at a future meeting

#### **EIT for Open Space Preservation**

1. Grand Central Woods – There was no update at this time.

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

- The Northampton County Farmland Preservation Board will meet on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Maria Bentzoni should be giving her report regarding the 2019 Farmland Preservation program applicants.
- Lower Nazareth Township is considering the adoption of an Earned Income Tax for Farmland Preservation

**Wind Gap Sewer Authority** - Bob Cornman noted his appointment to the Wind Gap Sewer Authority was rescinded by the Wind Gap Borough Council. He was not eligible due to the Pennsylvania State residency requirements for sewer authorities.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**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 9:35 pm.

**Vote: 7 Yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary  
Plainfield Township EAC

DRAFT