

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
July 9, 2018**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, July 9, 2018, at 7:00 pm at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, and Nazareth, PA 18064.

Those in attendance were:

Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairman	Robert Cornman – EAC Vice Chairman
Robin Dingle – EAC Member absent	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 7:01 pm.

The pledge of allegiance was performed.

Also in attendance – No attendees

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – June 4, 2018 Minutes - A motion was made by Bob Simpson and seconded by Bob Cornman to approve the June 4, 2018 minutes.

Vote: 6 Yes

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 attended previous meetings in order to review the proposed revisions with the EAC. The revisions were forwarded to the Plainfield Township Planning Commission and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. **Tom Petrucci received a time extension until October 31, 2018 for the grant.**

The Plainfield Township Planning Commission will review the LVPC comments in July of 2018. Don Moore noted that he previously sent suggested changes to Charlie Schmehl. Tom Petrucci has not heard if Don Moore’s changes have been considered.

It was noted that Synagro will also be on the next Planning Commission Agenda.

Gall Farm – July 17th Steering Committee Meeting 1pm at the Jacobsburg Park

Northampton County will be developing the Gall farm into a passive recreation park. Another parking lot will be developed near the Plainfield recreation trail. There are several environmentally sensitive areas on the property. Tom Petrucci, Jane Mellert, Don Moore and Terry Kleintop will attend. Glenn Borger is also on the Committee but will not be able to attend this meeting.

Grand Central Woods

The Board of Supervisors reviewed a letter from the EAC regarding the potential for preserving the land area known as Grand Central Woods. The Board of Supervisors approved Township Manager Tom Petrucci to move forward with fact finding for preservation of the property.

Official Map

Tom Petrucci sent out materials to EAC members regarding the process to adopt an official map.

Land Application of Sewage Sludge

Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure is moving to limit the application of sewage sludge, also known as biosolids, on land owned by Northampton County. An addendum has been added to the 2018 contracts between Northampton and tenant farmers to prohibit the use or deposit of sewage sludge on County owned land. The County has also written an addendum regarding the use of biosolids on preserved farmland and has sent it to the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Farmland Preservation for review. If approved, the addendum will ask landowners to voluntarily pledge to not use or spread biosolids or sewage sludge on their preserved farmland. The addendum would only apply to those future farms being considered for the program, not farms which were previously preserved.

Jane Mellert also noted that the State of PA should allow municipalities to have some right to regulate application of biosolids.

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

July 9th EAC Meeting- Jason Smith was in attendance to review the Draft Data Tables/Fact Sheets.

Jason Smith handed out two fact sheets.

- The Little Bushkill Creek Water Quality and Impacts
- Little Bushkill Creek Water Quality Restoration.

Tom Petrucci noted the documents can be used for MS4 outreach. The EAC members will review the documents and get back to him with comments and or suggestions.

Septic System Maintenance – Residential systems should be pumped every three to five years depending on the amount of use. Municipalities can put regulations in place requiring residents systems to be maintained. Better public education should take place.

2016-2017 Little Bushkill Creek Sampling Effort

The real hope is that the DEP is involved and working with the Township. Both parties should be involved in order to review and help come up with solutions to resolve the issues. While the stream is impaired it is still a decent stream. It would be difficult for the State to put regulations on a town to replace the sewer piping and infrastructure. Bacteria is easy to monitor. The problem of the stream having points where bacteria and fecal coliform are entering the stream is not unique to this area. The other areas are just not testing the stream. Terry Kleintop noted to correct the problem the areas showing negative test results need to be addressed and it includes both farming areas and the age of the pipes in the Wind Gap area. Tom Petrucci noted there are PennVest loans available to eligible municipalities. Jason Smith does not want to get bogged down in the data but wants to focus on making effective recommendations.

Many of the problem areas exist where there are older homes near the streams and many of the locations remain the same. Terry Kleintop noted that when the County does inspections of preserved farmland they do not inspect for issues affecting water quality.

Wind Gap Borough representative should be invited to a meeting in order to review the study results.

The presentation of final reports for the Little Bushkill study to the Board of Supervisors will be held on October 10th at the regular Board meeting. The grant work will be completed before the October 31, 2018 deadline.

The August EAC Agenda –1. Growing Greener 2. Conservation by Design quick fix 3. Official Map 4. Conservation by Design revisions

Terry Kleintop requested a new map showing farmland preservation for the Plainfield Township Farmers Fair.

PA Clean Fill and Regulated Fill Standards - Hearing Wind Gap Middle School – July 9, 2018

The Senate Majority Policy Committee held a hearing on July 9th at the Wind Gap Middle School. Representatives from the PA DEP, PA Chamber of Business and Industry, Industry Professionals, Citizens and Local Elected Officials, and US EPA presented testimony. The event was well attended. Local officials from Upper Mount Bethel Township, Bangor and East Bangor spoke about fill being brought in from neighboring states. It was noted during the hearing that one of the reasons the fill comes in from other states is due to Pennsylvania regulations being less stringent. Ty Bartosh testified regarding quarries that were filled in within Washington Township. Mr. Bartosh's grandfather started the Greenwalk Trout Hatchery and tested the water in the 1950's. The water was always high quality. Greenwalk sells water to Nestle for bottled drinking water. The water is tested consistently and the PA DEP is notified if there are any problems.

Bob Simpson noted that Plainfield Township should consider regulating fill. He can help with drafting requirements.

Northampton County Farmland Preservation and County/Municipal Partnership Program

- The Township has not received an update from Northampton County.

NEW BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: 6 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary
Plainfield Township EAC