

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
August 5, 2019**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Those in attendance were:

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| Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairman | Robert Cornman – EAC Member - Absent |
| Robin Dingle – EAC Member - Absent | Don Moore – EAC Member |
| Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member | Robert Simpson – EAC Vice-Chairman- Absent |
| 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 along with a moment of silence for the families of the Dayton, Ohio and Texas mass shooting casualties.

Also in attendance – There were no other attendees

Two EAC members asked if the Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Company rents the building out or organizes the gun sale shows that are held on the premises. The concern is in regards to the types of guns available for sale and how easy it is to make a purchase at a gun show. At this point the question could not be adequately answered.

Lehigh Valley Greenways – September 7, 2019 from 12noon to 4 pm. at the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

- Plainfield Township will have a table. Terry Kleintop will attend and man the table along with any other EAC volunteers.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – July 8, 2019 Minutes - A motion was made by Don Moore to approve the July 8, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Bruce Rabenold.

Vote: 4 Yes

OLD BUSINESS

PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant deadline December 31, 2019 - Little Bushkill Creek: Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc. are the hired Consultants to conduct the study

- The discussion on continuation of sampling was delayed due to three of the EAC members being unable to attend the August 5, 2019 EAC meeting.
- The restoration projects for the Achenbach and Stuber properties were rebid. The money for the project is from the Environmental Fund and grant funding. Flyway out of Lancaster was awarded the contract and approved as the contractor for the project. The bid results were higher than budgeted. The original estimate was around \$60,000 but included the possibility of the Plainfield Township Road Department conducting some of the work. The approved contract is over \$100,000. The work will be done during 2019.

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

- The Board of Supervisors approved a letter to the Northampton County Conservation District Office regarding conservation plans. 102.4 Erosion and Sedimentation plan is the responsibility of the landowner and the farmer. In some instances, the landowner is not the one farming the land. Terry Kleintop noted if the Northampton County Conservation district doesn't follow through with checking on updated conservation plans then there should be another avenue to pursue.
- Tom Petrucci is going to speak with Sharon Pletchen prior to sending a letter to the Northampton County Conservation office. Terry Kleintop has spoken to her in the past. A Conservation Plan can in some instances suffice for the Erosion and Sedimentation Plan. Terry Kleintop noted if the Conservation District does not move forward then other action should be considered. The farmer and landowner need to realize they are required to have a conservation plan. It was noted the landowner is still responsible if the farmer is not filing an up to date plan. Landowners of preserved farmland cannot operate without an updated conservation plan.

House Bill #370 – Amends the act of June 30, 1981 which authorizes the creation of agricultural acres, and further provides for purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

The Bill revise the section regarding construction and use of structures on the land.

- A discussion was held on how the Bill rules will work with municipal SALDO and Zoning regulations. It was noted that Northampton County handles the area excluded from preservation different than most of the other Counties in Pennsylvania.
- The Bill amendment allows for 1 house on 2 acres of preserved land.
- Terry Kleintop noted he interprets the language to mean that the 2 acres with a house on the old farm still has to be occupied by the farmer, a relative, or an employee, but due to the subdivision, the home could be sold. If the land is subdivided off then there is the possibility of the land with home being sold off to someone not associated with the farm. The legislation could create some problem areas in the future.

Act 537 Official Plan Update

- Township Manager Tom Petrucci emailed the progress update to the EAC Members on July 16th the email included the original RFP and survey to be utilized by Entech

CURRENT PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Tom Petrucci noted there are currently many pending/proposed ordinances which need to be finalized prior to moving forward with additional reviews.

Appalachian Trail Ordinance

- The proposed Ordinance will be on the September 11, 2019 Board of Supervisors agenda for adoption. The Planning Commission will review the Ordinance again prior to the September Board meeting due to MPC regulations.
- The document includes an amendment to the current regulations for subdividing land excluded from preservation during the farmland preservation process. Acreage within a farmland preservation excluded area will be able to be subdivided with a minimum one-acre lot. The revision intends to correct some of the problem areas which occurred due to differing regulations for the Township, County, and State. Under the current Plainfield Township Conservation by Design rules a 5-acre minimum lot area is required. The 5-acre minimum lot area has created a hardship for many landowners going through the preservation process. It was also noted that it is difficult to meet Act 319/515 Clean and Green regulations, the law that triggers roll back taxes along with the current Plainfield Township SALDO regulations.

- **Official Map** – Is at the Board level
- **The Quality of Life Ordinance** – Is at the Board level and may not go to other committees for review.
- **Poultry Ordinance** – Is at the Board level.
- **Conservation Development Ordinance Amendment** – The first revision was reviewed by the Planning Commission. The amendment is included in the Appalachian Trail Ordinance and zoning regulation update which is on the September 11, 2019 Board meeting agenda.
- **Timber Harvest Ordinance** – The revised regulations were pulled out of the Appalachian Trail Ordinance in order to move the Ordinance forward for adoption. The Ordinance is not completely dead. Tom Petrucci wants to get through the other ordinances first and then address legitimate issues that were brought up during the public review process. The Attorney General also has rendered an opinion regarding timber harvesting regulations. The EAC reviewed the Attorney General’s opinion in the past.

Terry Kleintop made the EAC Aware of the timber harvest situation in the Martins Creek area of Lower Mount Bethel. Talon Electric sold land to LMBT but timbered a large portion of the area in order to make additional money from the land. If a Timber Harvest Ordinance was in place the situation may have been avoided.

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 property has a high probability of being funded for preservation without municipal funds being contributed. The appraisal is now in and should be going to the property owner for review this week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Regional EAC Meeting** – Brooks Mountcastle scheduled a regional EAC meeting for September 9, 2019 at 6pm. The meeting will be held at Moore Township.
- **Bushkill Bug Symposium** – September 6th and 7th at The Karl Stirner Arts Trail
- **The Lehigh Valley Greenways Festival** – September 7th 12:00 to 4:00 pm at the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Plainfield Township Conservation by Design Development Ordinance Proposed Revisions

- Long term revisions will be addressed in the future if they are needed.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Don Moore and seconded by Bruce Rabenold to adjourn the EAC meeting at 9:23pm.

Vote: 4 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary
Plainfield Township EAC