

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
September 10, 2018**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, September 10, 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	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 7:07 pm.

The pledge of allegiance was performed.

Also in attendance – Jason Smith, Hanover Engineering

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – August 6, 2018 Minutes - A motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Robin Dingle to approve the August 6, 2018 minutes.

Vote: 7 Yes

OLD BUSINESS

Gall Farm – Tom Petrucci, Terry Kleintop, Don Moore and Jane Mellert attended the public meeting which was held at the Plainfield Township municipal building on August 21st at 6:30pm. Northampton County will be developing the Gall farm into a passive recreation park... A public survey is being conducted and can be accessed online.

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

September 10th EAC Meeting- Jason Smith was in attendance. Copies of the Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan (2018) prepared by Hanover Engineering were distributed to the EAC members on Friday, September 7, 2018. The following documents were reviewed:

- Robin Dingle previously sent Jason Smith suggested revisions for the Little Bushkill Creek Water Quality Restoration fact sheet. Jason incorporated the changes into the document.
- The restoration projects for the Stuber and Achenbach properties that were bid out were too high. The bids were rejected and rebid. There were no bids submitted on the second round of advertising. Tom Petrucci noted he is trying to get a time extension for the grant. If an extension is allowed then the final dates for completion of the plan will be moved to later than the October 31, 2018 deadline. Township employees may be utilized for part of the work.
- Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund grants could be pursued for additional funding for restoration work. It was noted that at this time the current grant work needs to be completed.
- Jason Smith noted that additional data and information will be added to the plan. The next EAC meeting is on October 1st. Tom Petrucci noted that the October 10, 2018 date to present the plan to the Board of Supervisors will need to be moved forward. A power point

presentation could be held at a special meeting to be held on November 29, 2018 and then the Board of Supervisors could take action at the December 12, 2018 meeting

- **The following time line was developed for completion of the grant study requirements.**
 1. **October 9th – Jason will submit the final draft plan**
 2. **November 5th - The final draft plan will be reviewed at the EAC Meeting and comments will be forwarded to Jason Smith**
 3. **November 29th – The final draft plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors**
 4. **December 12th - A public presentation will be given for the Board of Supervisors and Public. The Board will vote on accepting the plan.**
- Data from the water test results shows that Plainfield Township is experiencing some problems areas from agriculture and septic systems. Page 27 provides information on onsite septic system inspections. This was questioned. It was noted that the Township has the authority to test if a residential septic system is functioning correctly.
 - *Areas would be inspected to determine if septic systems and/or cesspools may have a malfunction that could be contributing to the stream impairment.*
 - A recommendation for an ordinance regulating septic system maintenance will be included in the plan.
- The properties where restoration work will be done should be labeled as Restoration 1 and Restoration 2 without the property owner names being in the plan.
- Monitoring in the plan is observing without sampling. Wording for sampling and monitoring will be revised.
- Source tracking was not part of the original program. Source tracking was added at a later date when the DEP approved and paid for the testing.
- **Water Quality Restoration** flyer– Jason will add the word includes and then the revised copies are ready for distribution to the public.
- The list of recommendations should be sent to Wind Gap Borough and the Wind Gap Municipal Sewer Authority for review after contact is made by Plainfield Township.
- Additional sampling and locations should be conducted for Wind Gap Borough. *This note will be added to the plan.*

The Plainfield Township newsletter will be completed and mailed out in November 2018.

Proposed Changes to the PA Commonwealth Management of Fill Guidance

A sample letter sent from the Slate Belt Council of Governments regarding fill regulations in the State of PA was reviewed. The Slate Belt Council of Governments is requesting municipalities to write to George Hartenstein the Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation in order to request update more stringent guidelines.

Motion – A motion was made by Don Moore and seconded by Bob Simpson to **recommend the Board of Supervisors send a letter to George Hartenstein the Deputy Secretary of the PA DEP regarding the update of the current PA Fill Guidance regulations.**

Vote: 7 Yes

Official Map

Tom Petrucci previously sent out materials to EAC members regarding the process to adopt an official map. The grant deadline is May 1, 2019. A consultant can be used to develop the map. The rest can be completed by the EAC and the Township. Tom Petrucci recommended breaking down each

component of the Official Map and focusing on one area at each meeting. Example streams, parks, woodlands, etc. Ott Consulting may be able to be utilized if it is in compliance with the grant regulations. It was noted that no extensions will be approved for the grant.

Next Month the Plainfield Township Conservation by Design Development Ordinance recommendations will be reviewed. Tom Petrucci previously emailed the following documents.

- Short term recommendations – Were distributed to the EAC Members for review
- Long term recommendations – Were distributed to the EAC Members for review

EIT for Open Space

- Grand Central Woods - Township Manager Tom Petrucci had a meeting with Waste Management regarding the potential for preserving the land area known as Grand Central Woods. He previously met with representatives from the Wildlands Conservancy and Northampton County. The next step is a meeting at the site which should take place at the end of October. Wildlands submitted a sample schedule for the process for Waste Management to review.

Northampton County Farmland Preservation and County/Municipal Partnership Program

- Northampton County developed an informational flyer.
- Northampton County Farmland Preservation sent out a letter to potential property owners. The letter was sent to identified and mapped landowners even if the properties are not currently in Agricultural Security areas.
- It was recommended that Tom Petrucci send a list of landowners with enough acreage to consider preservation but landowners have not pursued being in the Agricultural Security Zone to Maria Bentzoni.

NEW BUSINESS

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Brief, Dated July 31, 2018 - Amendments to Woodlands Guidance (Ten Changes listed in Bold)

- The EAC members were previously emailed a copy of the LVPC amendments to Woodlands Guidance which are on the LVPC website.
- Bruce Rabenold noted that the recommended amendments are not law. The amendments are based on a 2015 letter from Attorney General Kathleen Kane. Ms. Kane has been out of office for 2 years. The Attorney General position is now held by Josh Shapiro. EAC members questioned why the LVPC would make the amendments based on a past Attorney General.
- Tom Petrucci has had comments from residents regarding the proposed zoning amendments that will be considered for adoption in by the Board of Supervisors in October 2018. The concerns are in regard to the updated woodland regulations.

Proposed PA House Bill Number 2281 Biosolid Material Municipal Regulation Act - An Act providing for municipal regulation of the deposit, disposal or land application of biosolid material; and requiring a public referendum under certain circumstances.

- Tom Petrucci is working on language recommendations to send to the State Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regional EAC - Terry Kleintop noted he spoke to Brian Hill who is on the City of Bethlehem EAC – They would like to pull in interest from other EACs in order to work on common problems and problem solve.

Grant Opportunity – Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund – Application deadline September 27, 2018 by 11:59 pm eastern time. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) matching grants of \$50,000 to \$250,000 to conserve natural areas.

Tom Petrucci noted that we need to be conscious of projects in the urbanized area.

Tom noted the Township should finish out the DEP Growing Greener Grant and then complete the pollution reduction plan (PRP). The Township needs clearly defined and targeted projects when applying for grants. We don't have the projects identified at this time. Tom will take a look at the grant application.

Economic Ecology: The Monocacy Creek Watershed Association is hosting Land studies, Inc.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Don Moore and seconded by Terry Kleintop to adjourn the EAC meeting at 9:38 pm.

Vote: 7 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary
Plainfield Township EAC