

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
November 2, 2020**

Due to COVID – 19 Regulations in place in the State of Pennsylvania, the Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held by Zoom and/or phone connection on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Those in attendance were:

Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairperson	Robert Cornman – EAC Member
Robin Dingle – EAC Vice Chairperson	Robert Simpson – EAC Member
Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member	Stan Shelosky – EAC Member
Jane Mellert, EAC Secretary and Member	Tom Petrucci – Plainfield Twp. Manager

Also in attendance – There were no additional attendees

Chairperson Terry Kleintop opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and the pledge of allegiance was performed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – October 5, 2020 Minutes - A motion was made by Robert Cornman and seconded by Bruce Rabenold to approve the October 5, 2020 minutes with the following change noted from Terry Kleintop Page 1 Exhibit A first bullet Sewage Management add - under the Open Space Program.

Vote: 7 Yes

MEETING BUSINESS

Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan 2021 – 2nd Draft of the Proposed Action Plan

The plan was prepared by Township Manager Tom Petrucci and dated September 24, 2020 and revised after review by the EAC on October 5, 2020.

The Board of Supervisors reviewed the draft On lot Sewage Management Ordinance which was prepared along with the Act 537 Plan. Manager Tom Petrucci lead the review of the contents of the document. The comments regarding the plan follow:

- **ACT 537 Plan – The plan update is in progress.** The first draft of the ACT 537 Plan was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors in October of 2020. The Plainfield Township Planning Commission and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission must review the draft plan prior to it going to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.
- **A draft sample On lot Sewage Management Program Ordinance which is currently under review as part of the Act 537 Plan update is in the process of being revised.** The Supervisors reviewed the draft during the 10/14/2020 Board of Supervisors meeting along with the Act 537 Plan. The Ordinance is in the process of being revised by Entech Engineering consultant Mary Beth Peters. Jane Mellert noted she provided her input during the Board review

at the October meeting. The revised draft should be received soon and will be emailed to the Board and EAC for review.

The following was noted regarding the draft On lot Sewage Management Program Ordinance.

- The plan should not be too far reaching
 - Areas of concern regarding the impact to the Little Bushkill Creek area should be well defined.
 - The draft will be revised to cover different quadrants of the Township with listed target areas. A focus should be made on high priority areas along the stream corridor.
 - It was noted that a septic survey was conducted for the Act 537 Plan as per PA DEP requirements. A sampling of 15% of the homes was conducted at 349 residences. The survey was done utilizing residents that volunteered to have their septic system reviewed. The results of the survey do not indicate that Plainfield Township will be required to install sewer lines in the Township. It was noted that this does not mean that some problem areas remain, such as, in the Glass and Buss Street area where homes are located on small lots. There is also an existing area in Belfast. In the early 1990's Plainfield Township oversaw the installation of sewer lines in Blue Valley Acres (Dotta development)
 - A septic pumping schedule will be included in the Ordinance.
 - A PA DEP template was used to compile the first draft of the Ordinance.
 - It was noted the revised draft will be placed on the December EAC Agenda. There is a 180 day time table to review and approve the Ordinance by the required agencies after the final version is approved.
- **Open Space Program** – Terry Kleintop requested the EAC members pull out the Plainfield Township Open Space Program and review pages 38- 41 prior to the next EAC meeting and be prepared to discuss the Earned Income Tax funding and the possibility of spending money along the stream and trail to improve the stream corridor. It was noted a program to provide for the preservation of natural areas should be developed. The program should include applications and a ranking system. Property preservation is voluntary. Terry Kleintop noted a template could be used from another municipality in order to develop the steps and ranking system.
 - **Plainfield Township should consider revisions that would improve current ordinance requirements for the protection and restoration of riparian buffers.** Communication with Wind Gap Borough Officials and the Board should be started to discuss what measures the Borough could take to participate in the restoration and protection of riparian buffers.
 - **Plainfield Township should work closely with the Northampton County Conservation District, United States Department of Agriculture, to ensure that farms within the Township are meeting manure management plans, Nutrient Management Plans and/or Conservation Plans and implement the plans to protect local wetlands and waters.** The Northampton County Farmland Preservation Office could be utilized since the office conducts annual inspections on preserved farms. Public meetings with Ag Educators should be held and grants should be applied for which could help farmers make corrections. Robin Dingle noted the program should be implemented when and where possible.
 - **Little Bushkill Stream Monitoring** – It was noted that stream sampling has not been done since 2016 which creates a data gap. The areas for de-listing are now small areas. It is not known whether the small reaches would meet the PA Dep requirements for delisting. Robin

Dingle noted that corrective action along the stream would be necessary and it will take a while for the action to have impact. It will take three (3) to five (5) years for the benefits of the corrective action to have an effect. It was noted in March of 2020 the Board of Supervisors requested a scaled back stream sampling plan. The Board would like to review and consider funding for long term repairs and restoration measures.

- **Sewage Enforcement** – The 2018 Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan recommended moving forward with authorizing the Sewage Enforcement Officer to identify problem areas. It was noted that the ACT 537 and On lot Sewage Management Program Ordinance should help with identifying problem areas.
- **MS4 Requirements are ongoing. The Township Engineer Ott Consulting has been utilized for mapping. Wetland Scientist Jason Smith could be consulted to work with the Township Engineer to meet the requirements.**
- **MS4 Educational Materials** - The Township continues to update its educational materials for stormwater/MS4 on a regular and ongoing basis. This is a MS4 Program requirement. The EAC could assist in developing materials for publication.
- **Best Management Practices** - An evaluation of stormwater management needs should be conducted within Plainfield Township and Wind Gap. It may be a significant challenge to implement stormwater Best Management Practices in pre-existing developments. Grant funding may help.

Motion - 2021 Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan - Bob Cornman made a motion for Tom Petrucci to make the noted changes and move the plan to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Stan Shelosky.

Vote: 7 yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Robin Dingle to adjourn the EAC meeting at 8:31 pm.

Vote: 7 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary
Plainfield Township EAC