

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
April 4, 2022**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Those in attendance were:

Stan Shelosky – EAC Chairman	Jane Mellert, EAC Member
Jeffrey Beavan – EAC Vice Chairman	Joseph Colosi – EAC Member
Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member	Tom Petrucci – Plainfield Twp. Manager Absent

The EAC welcomed new member Joseph Colosi and each member gave a short description of their background.

- Joseph Colosi – Degree in Biology and taught at DeSales University
- Stan Shelosky – Engineer by profession
- Jeffrey Beavan – Civil Engineer – Environmental Permitting
- Bruce Rabenold – Environmental Degree
- Jane Mellert- Township Supervisor - served in various capacities since 1986 including starting the recycling program and on the Solid waste Committee that studied and developed the current Solid Waste Zoning District

Also in attendance – There were no additional attendees

Jane Mellert 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.

REORGANIZATION

Chairperson – Jane Mellert nominated Stan Shelosky with a motion. The motion was seconded by Jeff Beavan. **Vote: 5 Yes**

Vice Chairperson – Stan Shelosky nominated Jeff Beavan with a motion. The motion was seconded by Bruce Rabenold. **Vote: 5 Yes**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – November 1, 2021 Minutes - A motion was made by Stan Shelosky and seconded by Jeff Beavan to approve the November 1, 2021 minutes with the following correction. Under Public Attendance on page 1 change no members of the public were in attendance. Several members of the public were in attendance including Barry Schweitzer, Adrienne Fors and Kevin Waldron.

Vote: 4 Yes with Joseph Colosi abstaining due to not being present at the November 2021 meeting.

2021 YEAR END REPORT

The 2021 EAC Year End Report was previously emailed to all of the EAC Members and the 2020 Year End Report was handed out. The EAC would like to have an update on the following:

- Status of the Clean Fill Ordinance – The Plan Slate Belt group has discussed Clean Fill at the Joint Comprehensive Plan meetings. (10 Municipalities)
- Current balance in the Open Space Fund

MEETING BUSINESS

ESTABLISHMENT OF 2022 GOALS/ACTION PLAN FOR THE EAC

Chairman Stan Shelosky reviewed the following sections of the 2021 Approved Action Plan with the EAC Members:

#3 – Task 3 – Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan – was completed in 2021

#4 - Task 4 - Little Bushkill Creek Watershed Management Plan – Review of the existing Riparian and Wetland Buffers Ordinance to make a recommendation whether any revisions are warranted/necessary along with the review of the Zoning Ordinance.

The EAC can review the Ordinances for possible revisions.

Joseph Colosi noted he is impressed with the 100 ft Riparian Buffer regulation.

#10 – Task 2 – Agricultural Practices/Restoration Measures Task 2 Work with the Northampton County Conservation District, the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Office to educate agricultural operators on contour farming practices and best management practices for agricultural erosion and sedimentation practices.

It was noted that the EAC and Board of Supervisors previously wrote a letter to Northampton County Council requesting additional staffing at the Northampton County Conservation Office. The Township should contact the County to get an update on the status of the request.

Stan Shelosky noted there are farmers (Brian Fulmer and Donald Mack) in Plainfield Township that are on the Northampton County Conservation District Board of Directors. The farmers on the Board could reach out to fellow farmers regarding the necessity of having a plan.

Jeff Beavan suggested the EAC could be engaged with farmers that need to have Conservation Plans and have training programs for farmers that need to develop or update a plan.

Jane Mellert noted the Mack family sold the farm and some of the family no longer lives in Plainfield Township. It was also noted that preserved farms are inspected on an annual basis and the contour plans are reviewed. The Township currently has 43.5 farms which are preserved. Farmers also need a conservation plan if they apply for crop insurance.

Bruce Rabenold mentioned the ACRE Law (Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment) ensures that ordinances adopted by local governments to regulate agricultural operations cannot exceed, or conflict with state law.

#12 and #13 – MS4 Permit Program – The tasks are in progress by the Township Manager and the Board of Supervisors

#14 – Task 4 – MS4 Permit Program – Work with the EAC members to continue to review and develop educational materials as required by the MS4 program.

The EAC could help with the education by putting articles in the Township newsletter and being in contact with the school ecology club.

Open Space Plan – The EAC can look at properties of high value to preserve. Targeted areas are shown on the Official Map. A discussion was held on the differences between fee simple purchase and easement purchases.

NEW BUSINESS

BIOSOLIDS

Chairman Shelosky and several members are aware of the purchase of a preserved farm in Plainfield Township by the Nazareth Borough Municipal (Sewer) Authority for the purpose of disposing of the biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant. Joseph Colosi noted there are three ways to dispose of biosolids, burn, landfill or land application. Due to the amount of unknown chemicals and PFA's in the waste there may be potential health effects. PFA's are forever chemicals. The chemical makes Teflon non-stick, used in popcorn bags, nonflammable fabric, fire retardants, etc. The chemical is now being found in human bloodstreams. It is of great concern.

There is a group of residents scheduled to meet with Senator Scavello regarding Biosolids. Jane Mellert will get the date and time of the meeting and find out if the residents would welcome some of the EAC Members at the meeting.

Jane Mellert reported the Board of Supervisors sent a Resolution regarding Biosolids to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors for consideration at the PSATS Conference which will be held at the end of April 2022. A copy of the Resolution will be emailed to the EAC Members.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ORDINANCE

Jane Mellert explained the process which took place regarding the proposed updating of the current EAC Ordinance. It was noted that corrections need to be made due to the language stating the Board of Supervisors choose the EAC Chairperson, etc.

The majority of the EAC Members agreed it is feasible to have five members on the Environmental Advisory Council and not require seven members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Stan Shelosky and seconded by Joseph Colosi to adjourn the EAC meeting at 8:24 pm.

Vote: 5 Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, EAC Member
Plainfield Township EAC