

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13th, 2018

PRESENT: Eric Allen (Chair), Ron Moule (Vice Chair), Tamara Lesh, Hope Blaythorne, Christy Cheever, Deirdre Alderfer, and Christine Terranova (Administrator). Kevin Morrissey (Liaison) was on conference call.

ABSENT: David Benner, Bob McMahon and Barry Fetterolf

AUDIENCE: Robert McEwan

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9th, 2018

Upon a Motion by Tamara Lesh, seconded by Hope Blaythorne, the meeting minutes for January 9th, 2018 were unanimously approved with corrections.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Terranova distributed an email with an attached form from Debbie McFadden with Upper Makefield Planning & Zoning for any interested participants at an Earth Day event at Core Creek Park.

Ms. Alderfer stated that Wawa would be presenting a sketch plan to the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors at their first meeting in March.

Vice Chair Moule attended the Pennsylvania Sustainable Agricultural Farmers Conference and discussed how farmers should become more involved with local government.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Alderfer announced that WaWa would be presenting a proposed plan at the next New Hope Solebury School Finance Committee meeting on February 15, 2018.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Watersheds

Ms. Blaythorne shared her efforts to initiate a Township Watershed Summit. Representatives from all watershed associations were invited. The purpose is to share information as well as support collaborative efforts with either projects, grant proposals or anything else that seems appropriate. Closer association with the watershed organizations provides an opportunity for additional resident

participation with natural sustainability projects. There was discussion as to whether after the initial Watershed Summit (s), there should be a development of a “sub-committee” in the form of the deer management subcommittee.

The Bucks County Watersheds map was distributed and reviewed by Ms. Blaythorne and the committee. Ms. Blaythorne reviewed the following topics that were discussed at the January Watershed Summit:

- Quarry Reclamation
Concerns over use of land in future and possible water exportation
- Deer Management
Ideas for expanding the deer management program including “Deer Drives”, limiting “food troughs”, subsidized fencing for strategic areas, and education via automobile wreck. Someone volunteered to place a car at the New Hope Fire Company as an example to show what can happen when a deer is hit by a car.
- 202 Commercial District Plan
Concern over stormwater issues, public water usage and exportation of water. Need for comprehensive plan for the zone.
- Riparian Buffers
Concerns about the diminished buffers in Solebury, both private and public land. Suggestions around how they can be regulated; Wetland Protection, regulations concerning buffers, chemical buffers. Pursuing Grants to fix severe impacts to creeks and waterways. Essentially a unified direction regarding how we want to support this initiative via education, regulation and more.
- Recycling
Suggestions to expand and explore into reuse and to other recycled items.
- Grants
There are proposed Grants that can benefit the watersheds as we join together to source funds. Grants would provide leverage to create priorities to work on projects within the township.

It was noted that the watershed committee members would be invited to attend either the April or May EAC meeting to discuss the deer management issues. It was suggested to get the hunters’ list to Helen Tai to distribute in order to approach property owners to allow hunters on their property.

The committee briefly reviewed the 2018 Primrose Creek Watershed Association priorities as follows:

- Water Testing/Education
 1. Alliance with Solebury School and New Hope Solebury High School
 2. Execution on Stroud Grant
 3. Drive Riparian Buffer Awareness along Primrose Creek Area
- Quarry Committee
 1. Monitor reclamation activities
 2. Monthly Drone Footage

- Quarry Reclamation Committee
 1. Support Community feedback for township
- Fund Raising
 1. Membership Drive
- Communication
 1. Website Updates
 2. Education needs – Water Monitoring Data
- Watershed Collaboration
 1. Meeting, Grants, etc.
 2. Support EAC Annual Solebury Watershed Meeting

It was noted that the EAC Network Conference will be held on April 14th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Malvern Pennsylvania.

Aquetong Spring Park

Ms. Blaythorne mentioned that an art park has been suggested to be built as part of the Aquetong Spring Park. There is a possibility of contacting a local art professor living in Solebury to talk about planning that portion of the park.

Barry Fetterolf was absent from the meeting to comment on the invasive control at the park.

Wild Area Stewardship

- A. Riparian Buffer

There was a general discussion as to the best approach. The focus is evolving towards an educational and public program as there are no Township ordinances supporting this activity.
- B. Diseased Trees

There was no discussion on this topic

Deer Management

Chair Allen said the township has lost its contact with Representative Scott Petri since he has moved out of his current position and Senator McIlhinney will be retiring. The red tags should be delivered to the township any day. Chair Allen reinstated that the township still needs more property owners to become involved with the program to accommodate the number of interested and able hunters.

Roadside Spraying – Nothing to Add

Recycling

Efforts continue to encourage the public school system to enhance their recycling. The Township has enhanced these efforts with the purchase of a recycling bin for the Township building.

Supervisor McEwan suggested getting quotes from contractors on doing community recycling.

Ms. Alderfer did an audit on recycling at the New Hope Solebury Lower Elementary School. An email was sent to parents for students and parents to be aware of recycling at school. Some middle school students will be going to the elementary schools to talk about recycling.

Ms. Cheever stated the plan is to setup an area with bins to dispose of waste and recycled waste. The labels for the containers hopefully will be available the beginning of the new school year in September.

It was noted that the New Hope Solebury Community Association is a contact for recycling at community events and making donations.

General Updates

1. Penn East Pipeline – The Penn East project has been approved by FERC. The project still needs to be approved by the NJ DEP. It was noted that if you do not register to intervene, you will lose your right to comment later regarding that particular application.

Ms. Alderfer requested from Liaison Morrissey an update concerning whether the Township would file as an intervenor in the current Penn East/FERC application(s). Liaison Morrissey shared with the EAC that the Township Solicitor has advised not to file for reasons that have been amply shared in previous emails to the Board of Supervisors. After that initial statement, there was considerable discussion in urging that the Township should file as an intervenor.

Ms. Alderfer urged Mr. Morrissey to intervene in the Adelphia Gateway pipeline project.

2. Tuscarora – Ms. Alderfer requested from Liaison Morrissey an update concerning the Tuscarora migration efforts. The Township is working with the DEP to coordinate mitigation efforts with Shell, the inheriting corporation of this environmental project. It seems Shell has slowed its involvement and Supervisors Helen Tai and Mark Baum Baicker are working with the DEP to enliven the project.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT -- None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a Motion by Ron Moule, seconded by Tamara Lesh, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Christine Terranova, EAC Administrator