

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13TH, 2016 MEETING

PRESENT: Ron Moule (Chair), Barry Fetterolf (Vice Chair), Eric Allen, Deirdre Alderfer, David Benner and Christine Terranova (Administrator)

ABSENT: Hope Blaythorne, John Francis, Helen Tai (Liaison)

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

Chair Moule called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 15th, 2016

Upon a Motion by Ron Moule, seconded by Eric Allen, the meeting minutes for November 15th, 2016 were unanimously approved with changes.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was noted that a presentation would be given at the January 17th, 2017 Board of Supervisors meeting to present David Benner with a lifetime honorary membership to the Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion concerning the proposed pipeline that will be running through New Jersey and Pennsylvania. EAC will continue to discuss this issue at its monthly meetings and continue communication with outside contacts for updates and additional information.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Deer Management

A motion was made to the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2016 to recommend that they form a Solebury Deer Management Committee, with a specific stated goal to manage the Solebury Deer Population; to ensure the safety of Solebury residents and hunters; and to monitor, collect, record, and report data regarding the status of the deer population in Solebury.

Specific Objectives for the Deer Management Committee are:

- Establish clear goals/benchmarks for managing the deer population in Solebury.
- Manage the Solebury Hunting Program accordingly with defined leadership
- Work to reduce liability, exploring legalities, waivers, additional insurance,

- and background checks
- Recruit additional landowners through a targeted door-knocking campaign with ongoing landowner relations
- Collect data on Solebury Hunting Program (number of deer taken, sex, date, location, yearly population surveys, ecological assessments, etc.) Adjust program accordingly each season.
- Continue to interface with the Game Commission.
- Educate the public, landowners, and hunters about overpopulation, why it is a public safety and environmental concern, how it is appropriately dealt with through managed hunting, outlets for donation of venison (Hunters Sharing the Harvest), law regarding hunting and liability, and ecological regeneration through wildlife and forest management.

The EAC discussed the composition of the committee should include:

- 2 members of the EAC (Eric Allen and Ron Moule)
- 1 member from the Farm Committee (TBD)
- 2 or 3 hunters from the Solebury Hunting Program (Michael Warden, Dan Lawlor, John Brandes, Wayne Stuart and Mark Chrencik have all expressed interest)
- 1 member of the township administration (Jean Weiss)
- 1 Board Liaison (Helen)

It is expected that the process of bringing deer population down to conservation levels (approximately 25% of current population) will take several years of concerted effort to reduce the population followed by a long campaign of management to ensure the population does not rebound. Finally, it will take years for the forest to regenerate and will require both canopy and understory management by both the township and residents and landowners.

Bamboo Ordinance

It was noted to draft an awareness article for the website concerning the controlling and destroying of bamboo.

Mr. Benner proposed one method to rid bamboo environmentally would be to mow it to the ground and lay heavy black plastic on the area to avoid any moisture or light. Poisons are environmentally unsafe to use. Mr. Benner offered to write a procedure for controlling or killing the growth of bamboo.

Update on Aquetong Spring Park Committee Meeting

Princeton Hydro has been contracted to do a study to identify where the stream bed originated. The watercress has increased in growth and has spread downstream. There was a brief discussion on what to do with the Judy house and the committee is open for suggestions. The planting of trees on the property and near the stream happened in early December. The committee strongly recommends the Township to consider non-invasive trails along the streams. The

committee and township administration are currently looking into available grants. Jim Searing has been appointed as Board of Supervisors liaison for the committee.

Wild Area Stewardship

The following information was part of an email, dated November 23, 2016 from Heather Kerr, Service Forester, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry to Barry Fetterolf and Hope Blaythorne regarding the North Pointe/Cuttalossa/Laurel Road meeting.

North Pointe:

This area should be your biggest concern because there were a number of ash trees, which will be affected by the Emerald Ash Borer in the near future. The trees will likely die in the next 3 to 5 years because Emerald Ash Borer has been present in Bucks County for a number of years. The trees pose a hazard because they become very brittle once they begin to decline. Branches will begin to drop off or the entire tree can fall on a still day when infected. Since this area is right next to a development filled with families, I would recommend the trees be felled or removed.

The other concern for this area is the stream. There isn't enough of a buffer around this stream and it appears that with every major storm event the water cuts away more and more of the stream bank. A buffer would help hold the stream bank and prevent further erosion while also providing shade so the temperature of the water can drop enough for fish and beneficial microbes to survive which will eventually improve water quality.

Cuttalossa:

For this park my only recommendation would be to remove leaning or dead trees along the road. It appeared to be a healthy forest stand with a variety of species.

Laurel Road:

This area is similar to Cuttalossa and again I would recommend the removal or felling of trees that lean over the road just to remove the potential hazard.

Each area did have a few invasive species present so those could be targets for volunteer or Boy Scout projects. If you are interested in getting a Stewardship plan for the parks then you would be eligible to receive cost-share funding for herbicide, tree planting, and a variety of other projects that could occur on Solebury property.

Roadside Spraying DEP Black Fly Program

It was suggested to draft an article for the Township website in support of residents maintaining and spraying their own property roadsides. It was felt that people should support the prevention of PennDOT spraying along the roadways with the chemicals that they use.

Green Points for Approval – Nothing to report/discuss

Stormwater Education and Outreach

Chair Moule stated he would reach out to the Township Engineer, Bob Wynn, for any type of update on this topic.

Recycling

Ms. Alderfer stated she would do a follow up for the next meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ron Moule moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator