

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF APRIL 11TH, 2017 MEETING

PRESENT: Ron Moule (Chair), Eric Allen (Vice Chair), Barry Fetterolf, Hope Blaythorne, Deirdre Alderfer, John Francis, Helen Tai (Liaison) and Christine Terranova (Administrator)

ABSENT: Tamara Lesh

AUDIENCE: David Benner

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

Chair Moule called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 14th, 2017

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Barry Fetterolf, the meeting minutes for February 14th, 2017 were unanimously approved with changes.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Moule spoke about the recent Farm Committee meeting with 20 to 30 people in attendance. A few topics that were discussed were goals for the future, housing for the farm employees and the deer management program.

A handout (Adopt-A-Highway Highlights of Bucks County) was distributed to the committee.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

2017 Priorities

After a brief discussion, it was determined the following topics should be prioritized to be used for the 2017 Action Plan:

- Deer Management – Eric Allen
- Renewable Energy (Green Building) – John Francis
- Stormwater, Riparian Buffers, etc. –
- Reduce Solid Waste & Recycling – Deirdre Alderfer
- Bicycling and Walking Infrastructure – Tammy Lesh & Barry Fetterolf
- Incorporation of Wild Areas
- Road Salt Alternatives – Ron Moule
- BMP's (Best Management Practices) for woodlots
- Aquetong Invasive Removal

Rycling – Deirdre Alderfer/Tammy Lesh
Land Stewardship – Hope Blaythorne/Barry Fetterolf

It was noted that the Penn East Pipeline topic would be added to the monthly agenda for an update/discussion per month.

The following topics would continue to remain, and carry over from 2016, on the 2017 Action Plan:

Aquetong Springs Update – Barry Fetterolf
Bicycling/Walking Trails (Park & Rec) Update – Tamara Lesh
Farm Committee Update – Ron Moule
Pipeline Update

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Deer Management Update

	<u>Deer</u>	<u>Months to Hunt</u>	<u>Acres</u>
2015	170	5 (Sept. to Jan.)	<200
2016	341	5	1,100
2017	----	10	

No hunting is allowed on Sundays, six weeks during fawning season and two weeks after Christmas.

Action Items for the Program:

1. Recruit
2. Open up with neighboring townships like Plumstead Township, Buckingham Township or Upper Makefield Township

Chair Moule will be going to Buckingham Township to discuss the program in hopes they will want to get involved with the deer management program.

Handout titled, “Solebury Township Deer Overpopulation Overview” was distributed and discussed by the committee.

Handout titled, “Deer & Deer Management in Developed Areas” was distributed and discussed by the committee.

Handout with property owners, property owner’s addresses and acreage was distributed and discussed by the committee. Property owners may be approached to see if they would be interested in the deer management program to allow hunting on their property. Each committee member is to review the list

and add their name if they feel comfortable enough to approach a homeowner to discuss the program.

Aquetong Spring Park Committee Update

Ms. Tai spoke about the use of herbicides at the Aquetong Spring Park in controlling the invasive plants. Princeton Hydro will be looking for an alternative way for spraying other than Round-Up. The Board of Supervisors would like the EAC to make recommendations in controlling the types of invasive plants. It was also noted that mechanical removal with volunteer labor may be a possibility or a mix of approaches using herbicides on the most aggressive/most difficult plants to remove and mechanical removal for others. Princeton Hydro recommends that a first application be done in May.

The following handouts were distributed to the committee for review:

- A Guide to the Control and Management Invasive Phragmites (Third Edition)

- Waterfowl Management Handbook, 13.4.12 Control of Phragmites or Common Reed

- NRCS Pest Management – Invasive Plant Control

- Princeton Hydro recommendations and cost proposal for the management of invasive plants within the Aquetong Park during the 2017 season. Princeton Hydro will focus on the Japanese Honeysuckle, common weed, Multiflora Rose, Red Canary Grass and Mugwort.

It was noted that the Aquetong Spring Park Committee will meet April 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. and representatives from Princeton Hydro will be in attendance.

Mr. Benner volunteered to draft a report on using the black plastic method for the removal of invasive plants.

Wild Area Stewardship

It was noted that the goal for wild area stewardship should be a yearly walking inspection tour done by the State Forrester and then provide a one page report to the township in order to report anything that may need to be addressed. This would be helpful in providing information to the public to educate people concerning woodlands and wooded acres within the township and ongoing issues.

Roadside Spraying – Discussion Continues

Green Points for Building

It was noted that Mr. Francis will need to meet with the Township Manager, Dennis Carney, for an update.

Recycling at Parks

Ms. Alderfer and Ms. Lesh met with Dudley Rice, Park and Recreation Director, to discuss promoting recycling in the township parks, schools, and especially for all the sports events that take place throughout the year. Recycle cans have been setup in Laurel Park and it was felt more signage would be needed to promote the program. Ms. Alderfer will be monitoring the issue and will approach the school district on promoting the program within the schools. She will be meeting with Waste Management to discuss a recycle audit with the school district.

Earth Day Cleanup

The Aquetong Watershed will hold their cleanup on Earth Day, April 22, 2017 with rain date to be Sunday, April 23, 2017.

Carversville did their annual support cleanup on April 9, 2017.

The Paunacussing Watershed Association and Tinsman Brothers Lumber held their cleanup on April 9, 2017.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Hope Blaythorne, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator