

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MARCH 10th, 2020

PRESENT: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), William Birnes, Hope Blaythorne, Doug Shaw, Barry Fetterolf, Jim Mansfield, Mark Baum Baicker (Liaison) and Christine Terranova (Administrator).

AUDIENCE: Cathy Shaw (resident)

GUEST SPEAKER: Karoline M. Anderson, Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist, United States Department of Agriculture

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 11th, 2020

Upon a Motion by William Birnes, seconded by Jim Mansfield, the meeting minutes for February 11th, 2020 were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, April 18th, EAC will have a table at the Bucks County Audubon facility in Solebury for Earth Day. Chair Allen is asking for materials to be placed at the table. He would like to display some information on deer management, recycling, Spotted Lantern Fly and Ready for 100.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

USDA Presentation on Spotted Lanternfly Management

Mr. Shaw opened the presentation by introducing Karoline M. Anderson, Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine with the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Shaw presented a draft handout to the Council regarding; (1) Approach to Addressing Invasive Insects; and (2) Summary Overview of Invasive Insects in Bucks County. The Council was instructed to review the drafts and submit any comments to Mr. Shaw.

Ms. Anderson's presentation covered the following issues:

- Brief description on the *Lycorma delicatula* (Spotted Lanternfly) as a new invasive insect that has spread throughout southeastern, central and western Pennsylvania since its discovery in Berks County on September 22, 2014.
- SLF presents a significant threat to Pennsylvania agriculture.
- There is a native SLF but we are presently dealing with an exotic SLF which comes from outside the USA.
- SLF signs and symptoms, the insect attacks fruit trees, but not the fruit itself. It is more interested in the sap in trunks, branches, twigs and leaves, tapping into the plant like a straw.
- SLF females will lay 30 to 50 eggs, one generation per year, between late September through November. A wax coating will protect the eggs.
- Lifetime of the SLF is only one year or less and will die after the first hard frost.
- SLF eggs will hatch in late April through mid-May
- Adult SLF and eggs pose a great risk of hitchhiking by the movement of wood, vehicles, yard furniture, machinery or any items stored outdoors.
- SLF go through five stages of growth after hatching from eggs.
- SLF will use an invasive plant called tree-of-heaven as their preferred host.
- SLF will affect as many as seventy different plants.
- Both the U.S. and Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture are working on control and eradication measures by leaving “trap trees” which are baited trees with insecticides to kill the spotted lanternflies.
- SLF is an active hitchhiker with many modes of human assisted transport.
- A common technique to destroying the SLF is finding egg masses and smashing or scraping them from the tree bark.
- Tree banding is another common technique to destroying the SLF.
- Prevent the spread of SLF by practicing biosecurity basics if you live or work in infested areas.
- Take basic biosecurity and Best Management Practices (BMP) steps to controlling SLF.
- Spiders (Orb, wolf spiders), praying mantises and wheel bugs have been found to attack SLF.
- Learn about which counties are included in the quarantine order.
- Learn about what SLF looks like in every stage of its development throughout the year.
- Avoid parking or storing things under trees in infested areas.
- Inspect all items that you need to move from within the quarantined area to areas outside the quarantined area.
- All businesses should get a permit issued through PDA.

- Use the checklist for residents if you need to move items that are not included in a permit through a business.
- If you sell plants, have them inspected by PDA to receive a phytosanitary certificate.
- If you sell and/or produce mulch, you must use specific practices to ensure it does not harbor SLF.
- Only recommended chemicals should be used for the SLF.
- When scraping a tree, the SLF masses should be placed in a bag with alcohol for disposal
- USDA will ask for permission to assess your property and can treat the infected trees or the homeowner can do the treatment themselves.
- Spray treatments of trees done by the USDA can be done at no charge.
- Be sure not to allow egg masses in your yard to be accidentally transported inside your home in any way.

It was noted the next EAC meeting would further discuss Mr. Shaw's draft handouts.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ready for 100 (Jim Mansfield)

It was suggested that the township draft a resolution to generate a plan for the community. It may be helpful to reach out to other surrounding municipalities to see if they have developed any ideas. Supervisor John Francis has been working on a draft resolution for this project. A set of guidelines would be needed in order to join the Sierra Club renewable energy program. Liaison Mark Baum Baicker also has experience in drafting these particular resolutions. It was suggested that a first step may be to install LED lights throughout the township building to start Solebury Township's energy transition plans.

Plastic Regulation (Eric Allen)

There was a brief discussion concerning plastic regulations in Solebury Township. Ms. Cheever drafted a letter to the Editor of the Bucks County Herald to address doing away with single-use plastic bags and plastic straws within the community. She continued that with McCaffrey's Market becoming a new store in the area, to commend it taking the lead on environmental sustainability to setting a positive example in hopes that other business will follow their lead.

Recycling (Christy Cheever)

A tour has been scheduled at Waste Management with Patty Barthel on April 22nd at 1 p.m. to tour the recycling facility. This day just happens to be on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day!

Ms. Cheever stated that she contacted the New Hope Solebury School Superintendent, Dr. Lentz, who suggested she reach out to Mr. Loving, a teacher at the middle school, to discuss recycling within the schools. Ms. Cheever will try to contact the custodian on the school campus to see what is done with the recycling trash verses the regular trash.

Adopt A Highway (Christy Cheever)

Ms. Cheever stated she was waiting to hear back from McCaffrey's Market regarding the Adopt A Highway Program.

Mr. Birnes stated he spoke with Basils, a food market in Lambertville, that is also interested to contributing to the Adopt A Highway Program even though they are located in New Jersey.

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated that Dennis Carney, Township Manager, sent out an email on the effectiveness of the program at this time.

Liaison Baum Baicker added that the township is trying to develop a different approach in getting an accurate number of the deer population. This number would help in being more accurate with calculations.

It was noted that a meeting is scheduled at the Audubon Society tomorrow to discuss the deer situation and the ongoing program.

Wild Area Stewardship (Hope Blaythorne)

Ms. Blaythorne talked about approaching Tree City USA to help with township goals to start a program planting trees within the township. She will approach Bowman's Nursery to see if there is any interest in getting involved in a tree planting program.

Ms. Blaythorne stated that Stroud Water Monitoring Company offers a workshop with their ongoing program. There will be a workshop available in April.

Environmental Restoration (Hope Blaythorne)

Nothing to report at this time.

Rules & Regulations (Doug Shaw)

Nothing to report at this time.

Lighting Ordinance (Hope Blaythorne)

Ms. Blaythorne will contact Dennis Carney, Township Manager, to discuss the current ordinance.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator