

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AUGUST 6th, 2015 MEETING

PRESENT: Jim Searing (Chair), Hope Blaythorne (Vice Chair), David Benner, Barry Fetterolf, Eric Allen and Christine Terranova (EAC Administrator).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Diane Smith, Bucks County Audubon Society

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Searing called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 9th, 2015

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Jim Searing, the meeting minutes for June 9th, 2015 were unanimously approved. Dave Benner abstained from the Motion.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Tonight's Agenda

Jim thanked the members for their flexibility and resilience in spite of many leadership changes over the past year.

Solebury Day Participation

Solebury Day is scheduled for September 19, 2015 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and the rain date would be September 20th, and it was previously discussed and noted that EAC would not participate. The members considered whether the EAC had the resources to participate in Solebury Day.

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Hope Blaythorne, the Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council will not be participating on Solebury Day.

Quick Updates

Barry Fetteroff was appointed by the BOS to the Aquetong Lake Committee as a representative for EAC, in addition to four other individuals. Barry will be involved with making recommendations on uses of facilities and the reclamation/restoration of the former lake and dam area including improvements and passive uses.

Moving Forward

Mr. Allen stated that a medium ground needs to be found between the committee

and the Board of Supervisors to work together on community issues.

Ms. Blaythorne stated it may be helpful if new members with an environmental background become involved so when recommendations are brought forward by EAC, there would be more technical expertise to support the issue.

The EAC discussed various issues related to its mission and future role. This included:

Environmental issues vs. political issues:

1. Tension between EAC mission and realities
2. Find areas of concurrence within the EAC so we can move forward constructively
3. Members are interested in what will change within the EAC and what changes we need to make to adapt
4. Can we be early on issues? The EAC has a role to play in the early identification of issues before they become more visible
5. Bring forward facts – focus our recommendations on findings and facts
6. Pick specific issues to focus on and bring recommendations forward
7. Recruit new talent to the EAC to increase our effectiveness
8. Propose practical solutions

Priorities:

Jim summarized the following potential projects based on the Board of Supervisor's requests and member concerns:

1. Reviewing the ecological restoration plans for Aquetong Creek
2. Wildlife management
3. Community Events
4. Reducing waste/increasing recycling
5. Wild area stewardship – Guidelines and best practices for taking care of Mother Nature damages (example – trees down unexpectedly)
6. Encouraging renewable energy – Don't overdue with too much on solar panels, etc.
7. Fracking
8. Composting Program/Mulching

The following topics were prioritized by the committee as the most important to be addressed and reviewed:

FIRST: Mulching Program/Composting
SECOND: Wild Area Stewardship
THIRD: Wildlife Management, Reducing Waste/Recycling, Encouraging Renewable Energy and Fracking

The EAC mapped out a framework for how we will begin to develop facts and recommendations for the topics we choose to focus on:

- What do other townships do?
- Logistics – what’s required?
- Possible starting points
- Possible objections
- Issues created by current practices
- Partnership opportunities
- Costs
- Regulations/policy issues that would be needed

Proposed Process

- Decide on issue(s) to focus on
- Gather facts
- Define options
- Debate positions/Decide on direction
- Develop a work product

Future Meeting Dates:

We discussed how to make it more convenient for members to be available for the meeting dates. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th, 2015.

Jim requested that the administrator send out an email one-and-half weeks prior to the meeting to confirm everyone’s availability for the monthly meeting and if necessary, that we reschedule meetings to ensure we have a quorum of members.

ADJOURNMENT

Barry Fetterolf motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator