

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10TH, 2015 MEETING

PRESENT: Jim Searing (Chair), Hope Blaythorne (Vice Chair), David Benner, Eric Allen, Ron Moule, John Francis and Christine Terranova (EAC Administrator).

ABSENT: Barry Fetterolf

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

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 13th, 2015

Upon a Motion by John Francis, seconded by Ron Moule, the meeting minutes for October 13th, 2015 were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS -- None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Updating on Aquetong Springs Park Committee Meeting

Barry Fetterolf was absent from the meeting so no update was given on the committee meeting.

It was noted that the ecological restoration study will take place in 2016.

Garlon 3A herbicide being sprayed on vegetation along roadsides in Solebury Township

Ron Moule presented the council with a handout regarding Garlon 3A herbicide that is being sprayed along roadsides in Solebury Township. The following are some of the noted issues with the herbicide:

- Garlon 3A is an herbicide used to control all types of vegetation. In Solebury Township, it is being sprayed along the side of the road from a truck mounted sprayer.
- According to the label and material safety data sheet, on a scale of 0 to 4, with 4 being the highest hazard; health range is a 3, flammability is a 2 and reactivity is a 0.
- Environmental Hazards – Under certain conditions, treatment of aquatic weeds can result in oxygen depletion or loss due to decomposition of

- dead plants, which may contribute to fish suffocation....The use of this chemical in areas where soils are permeable, particularly where the water table is shallow, may result in groundwater contamination.
- Do not apply this product in a way that contact workers or other persons, either directly or through drift.
 - For applications to noncropland areas, do not allow entry into areas until sprays have dried, unless applicator and other handler PPE (personal protective equipment) is worn.
 - Given the goal of the spraying is to control vegetation and improve safety, we should consider whether we can achieve that goal through other means. The reality of herbicide is that it kills living roots and destabilizes soil on roadsides contributing to erosion, watershed degradation, and damage to the road bed. Are we not creating more problems with this approach?
 - What are the alternatives? (1) Mechanical: mowing, brush hogging; (2) Over seeding: planting vegetation that will meet the goals of the land (low growing to avoid interfering with utilities) and outcompete common invasive and undesirable plants; (3) Natural Herbicides: Citrus based (Avenger) and agricultural vinegar.

The council reviewed and discussed the possibilities to appeal PennDOT for spraying with the recommendation coming from the Township Manager. Jim Searing volunteered to create a draft from the EAC to the Township Manager to address PennDOT to stop spraying the roadsides in Solebury Township.

Mulching/Composting Program

Jim Searing presented a draft PowerPoint presentation to the council for review and discussion concerning the expansion of Solebury Township's leaf collection program. The goal of the council is to make recommendations to the supervisors for approval to expand the leaf collection program for the residents of the township. The following topics were reviewed and discussed from the draft presentation:

- Background of the program
- Current state of Solebury's Leaf Collection Program
- Why compost leaves?
- What we learned from other townships
- What are other townships doing? Buckingham Township, New Lebanon Township, Bethlehem Township
- Considerations for Solebury
- Recommendations
- Encouraging more composting
- Current program issues and possibilities
- Open issues

Wild Area Stewardship

Jim Searing presented a handout to the council on “Best Management Practices” for discussion.

A walkabout on township owned “wild” properties will take place in December.

V. NEW BUSINESS – None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT -- None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Searing adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator