

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 14th, 2017 MEETING

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

AUDIENCE: Robert McEwan

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

Chair Moule called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 10th, 2017

Upon a Motion by Deirdre Alderfer, seconded by Hope Blaythorne, the meeting minutes for October 10th, 2017 were unanimously approved with corrections.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Solebury Farm Committee will do a presentation before the Board of Supervisors and township administration on November 21, 2017 to come up with recommendations for a Strategic Plan and also specific township farming regulations. The Farm Committee is looking to work together with other committees in hopes that people will add their support to the farm committee and the community.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – None

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Deer Management Update

Mr. Allen mentioned that a meeting was held with Senator McIlhinney and his assistant, Heather, to outline how the program was progressing. The DMap program has been extended to allow unlimited tags. The question was raised if the township would consider reimbursing the hunters for the cost of the tags. Currently there are 150 hunters in the program and 57 properties available. Michael Warden is now involved with working with township administration on the paperwork process.

It was suggested to send postcards; draft an ad for the Herald; township emails; draft an ad for the Messenger; send an invitation to farmers and preserved property owners in Solebury Township to become more involved with the

program. It was also suggested to make “cold” calls to promote landowners to offer their property for hunting.

Chair Moule will contact the Conservancy regarding the hunting program.

Aquetong Spring Park

There was a brief discussion concerning Princeton Hydro fulfilling their obligations from their contract with the township. Princeton Hydro will present to the Board of Supervisors on December 17th what they propose to be the next steps of the park, especially the development of the trails. Simone Collins will be contracted to do the park design and overall plan. At this point in time, there are no plans for the Judy house.

The final draft of the Aquetong Spring article by Tamara Lesh and David Benner will be published shortly.

Wild Area Stewardship

There are nine watersheds in the township with only two associations to support two of the watersheds (Aquetong Watershed that includes the Aquetong Spring and Primrose Watershed that includes the New Hope Quarry). It was noted that communication between the various watersheds would help in addressing items of interest, something the EAC may want to be involved with.

Ms. Blaythorne stated there will be a meeting in February, 2018 to discuss priorities, what everyone is currently working on and to share ideas. It is hopeful to meet four times throughout the year.

Roadside Spraying

Ms. Lesh volunteered to contact PECO to review ownership of the New Hope Ivyland railroad tracks within the township and inquire what type of pesticide they are spraying near the railroad tracks.

Green Points for Building

On October 18, 2017, Mr. Francis sent an email to the council members explaining his meeting with Dennis Carney, Township Manager, regarding green points. It was felt that it could be a burden on manpower to enforce and promote people to get involved in the program. A policy should be created that is simple and beneficial to the township and the environment. The following was recommended by Mr. Francis:

1. Instead of creating a point system that would be applied at the time of a building application and then validated during the inspection process, the township could publish guidelines and potential benefits to developers and homeowners and that elements of the building

- specification which are found to apply should be checked off at the time of a final inspection and a rebate provided where appropriate. The applicable “green” building elements should be submitted by the applicant, inspected and validated only once, at final inspection.
2. The following items should be included where they are added to a specification, above and beyond that required by code:
 - a. Solar Panels
 - b. Ground Source/Geothermal heating and cooling systems
 - c. Tankless Water Heaters
 - d. Low flow Toilets
 - e. Waterless Urinals
 - f. Additional Insulation
 - g. Rainwater tanks for irrigation
 - h. Energy Star Appliances
 3. Benefits would be provided to the applicants via a rebate based on a scale to be determined.
 4. These measures will, in addition to providing applicants with a tangible benefit, provide a vehicle for the township to promote “green” practices, publicize and educate in regard to “green” practices and enable a discussion to be promoted between the applicant and building contractor so that many elements will be implemented regardless of what the township benefits provided.
 5. We can start small and manageable and building on the program as we get feedback and experience.

Recycling at Parks

Ms. Lesh stated that a meeting would be held with the high school and middle school environmental clubs to discuss having a “set up” center in the cafeteria for students.

Penn East Pipeline Update – No Update

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Alderfer spoke with Elizabeth Falconi, Board of Directors with Delaware Canal 21 and discussed the priority projects and programs for 2017 through 2019. Deirdre provided a brochure to the committee to explain some of the ongoing and up and coming projects for the canal.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Tamara Lesh, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator