

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MAY 10TH, 2016 MEETING

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

AUDIENCE: Michael Warden, Dave Kimble and another gentleman from BOWMA (Big Oak Whitetail Management Association), and a Creamery Road resident

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

Chair Moule called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 12th, 2016

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Barry Fetterolf, the meeting minutes for April 12th, 2016 were unanimously approved with corrections.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Updating on Aquetong Spring Park Committee Meeting

The local school district is interested in helping with the tree planting project for the park.

Wild Area Stewardship and Partnering with Parks & Recreation Committee

Chair Moule spoke with the Chair of the Parks and Rec committee to discuss working together in developing the park. It was noted that there is a need for increasing public awareness. Chair Moule will be attending the next P & R meeting.

Roadside Spraying

Ms. Alderfer spoke to Radnor Township concerning what they use for spraying materials and added that one type of spray is a vegetable oil base.

Naming of four unnamed creeks in Solebury Township

A stream in the Rockwood Path development and a stream near Laurel Road are

two waterways worth pursuing to name at this time. It was noted that a follow up discussion would continue at the next EAC meeting.

Green Points for Approval

It was noted that more information is needed on the program in Doylestown in trying to reduce permitting fees in Solebury Township.

Deer Management

Two gentlemen from BOWMA (Big Oak Whitetail Management Association) gave a brief presentation regarding the BOWMA organization for deer management. Mr. Kimble mentioned that the hunters who would like to be involved in the organization are tested for safe shooting through a score system and eliminated if they have a low score once tested. The organization is only for bow and arrow hunters, a background check from the State and Township is required and has a two million dollar liability policy coverage for the volunteers.

Mr. Kimble stated that BOWMA is currently under contract with Lower and Upper Makefield Townships and the deer meat is given to local food banks. BOWMA also offers individual contracts for hunting deer with private residents. Mr. Kimble stated that the cost of the program is minimal and the only cost would be for the background checks and badges for the volunteers along with a “dues” fee. The red tag program is offered which is hunting through the year outside the regular hunting season.

The committee felt that education and outreach to the public is critical to make the program successful in Solebury Township. Chair Moule suggested to design a short-term plan and then something a little more extensive for the future. It was felt the best choice for control would be sharp-shooting with bait. Once the program is initiated, then maintenance is the next step.

A publication from Cornell University entitled, “An Integrated Approach for Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments: The Cornell University Study” was briefly discussed and felt to be helpful in understanding the deer management concept.

Michael Warden spoke to the council in support of the current deer management program in Solebury Township and was able to explain some of the process of the program.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Bamboo Ordinance

Chair Moule stated that Solebury Township does not have a bamboo ordinance, and the council is looking to guide residents on controlling the growth and contain the bamboo from getting too close to the street from their property.

The Creamery Road resident briefly talked about the different varieties of bamboo that he has growing on his property.

It was noted that a proposal to limit the height of the bamboo may work in stopping the growth. Ms. Tai added it should be considered to limit the number of feet from the property line to plant bamboo, which may help to enforce the control of the bamboo growth.

The Creamery Road resident stated that bamboo can be moved and re-planted.

Chair Moule stated that there is a need to educate residents on maintaining and controlling the growth of bamboo.

Ms. Tai suggested that Chair Moule contact Supervisor Paul Cosdon to discuss how to control existing bamboo, how to generate education, alternatives and species of bamboo. Chair Moule provided a handout entitled, "Horticulture First Year – Ecology Spring 2016" from Sari Feldman regarding bamboo.

Chair Moule added this topic to Solebury Day to provide education on bamboo to the residents.

Solebury Day Planning

Solebury Day will be September 17th, 2016, with the rain date being September 18th, 2016.

The following are topics that EAC may want to address on Solebury Day with a booth:

- Bamboo
- Leaf Collection/Composting – pilot a program
- Roadside Spray – Direction to residents
- Creek Naming Campaign
- Deer Management – Sign up to get involved with the township program

It was suggested to interact with the public with questions or possibly award prizes.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT -- None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

John Francis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator