

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AUGUST 8TH, 2017 MEETING

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

ABSENT: Hope Blaythorne, Deirdre Alderfer

AUDIENCE: Christy Sheever

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11th, 2017

Upon a Motion by Ron Moule, seconded by Eric Allen, the meeting minutes for July 11th, 2017 were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A few weeks ago, Ms. Tai discovered fish being trapped and dying in the canal after DCNR turned off the pump at Center Bridge to do construction on a bridge between Center Bridge and New Hope. It was agreed a year ago that DCNR would notify the township of future activities on the canal so that that township could solicit volunteers to help in rescuing wildlife, this did not happen.

An email was sent to the Council from Ms. Alderfer stating that she spoke with Bethany with Delaware Canal State Park which is a subset of DCNR. Ms. Alderfer explained to Bethany that people in our community were upset that the pump was shut off without notification and fish were dying. Bethany was not aware of the notification agreement with the township. Bethany explained that a waste outlet/aqueduct was opened in New Hope from Friday (7/21) to Monday which allowed some water and wildlife to drain out. She personally monitored the canal on Saturday and did not see dead fish or areas where the fish were trapped. The pump was turned back on either Wednesday or Thursday. She also stated that Friends of Delaware Canal (Susan Taylor) was notified before the pump was shut off. Ms. Alderfer stated it was her understanding that fish had died and some attempts were made to rescue the fish. Ms. Alderfer asked in the future to contact Dennis Carney and that the township would be able to notify all of the organizations that could coordinate a rescue.

Ms. Lesh suggested looking to see if the proper permits were applied for and if a

planned drainage was created to save the wildlife involved.

Another topic of discussion was the dropping of “dog poop” bags along the towpath of the canal. It was noted that the canal is State owned and a maintenance program would be under their jurisdiction (DCNR). Funding is low so there is not program in place.

Mr. Allen volunteered to search for a contact person to address this issue and would like to suggest the placement of trash containers with disposable bags along the towpath.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Deer Management Update

July 1 – Township hunting starts on farms

August 15 – Township hunting starts for all properties

It was noted that the hunting season would be open for all who were interested. If a property owner decides they do not want hunting on their property during certain times of the year then that is their choice and the same goes for any participating hunter. The hunting season would include firearms and bow. All existing hunters have been notified of the new program.

The Game Commission will issue 500 municipal doe tags for the beginning of the hunting season to start September 16th.

As of today, the township has not received the red tags from the Game Commission yet. The red tags will not be issued until January, 2018 once the regular hunting season has ended. Mr. Allen will call Mr. Mc

It was suggested to create a form for the website for property owners to respond through email to get involved in the program. Once the form is received, the Deer Management Administrator will have the opportunity to visit the property and review the program with the property owner.

Mr. Allen will call Senator McIlhinney’s office to request if an exception can be made with the issuing of the red tags to an earlier date.

Aquetong Spring Park

A. Committee Update

Princeton Hydro has given their opinion and suggestions on the structure of the stream. The next issue for the committee to address would be the Judy House and the land below the spring. It was noted that educating the community and publicizing the stream and proposed park would be the next step for the township. It was suggested to install a placard of the proposed plans at the

entrance of the park for the public.

B. Invasive control at the park

Ms. Lesh and Mr. Benner volunteered to draft an article on the spring for public distribution. Mr. Benner will check with the Solebury Historical Society for additional information on the history of the spring.

Wild Area Stewardship

Ms. Blaythorne and Mr. Benner will meet to observe the ash trees in the park.

Roadside Spraying

Mr. Moule mentioned that PECO recently sprayed around the telephone poles to check for decay.

Ms. Tai stated she would contact Dennis Carney, Township Manager, for an update on the roadside spraying.

Green Points for Building

Mr. Francis will meet again with Mr. Carney to continue their discussion on the program.

Recycling at Parks

Ms. Lesh and Ms. Alderfer met with New Hope Solebury School administration and Waste Management. Waste Management will incorporate the school logo into stickers to place on the recycle containers. Waste Management will have different color containers for recycling from the trash containers in order to help the students distinguish the difference with the containers.

Penn East Pipeline Update

There was a brief discussion concerning contamination of the pipeline in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and the eminent domain law involved with the pipeline.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fetterolf motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator