

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2017 MEETING

PRESENT: Ron Moule (Chair), Eric Allen (Vice Chair), Tamara Lesh, Deirdre Alderfer, David Benner (Non-Voting), Helen Tai (Liaison) and Christine Terranova (Administrator)

ABSENT: Hope Blaythorne, Barry Fetterolf and John Francis

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

Chair Moule called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 8th, 2017

Upon a Motion by Tamara Lesh, seconded by Eric Allen, the meeting minutes for August 8th, 2017 were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Tai spoke about a webinar she attended regarding regenerating forests. She felt that the EAC may want to consider doing something in the future with respect to regenerating forests. Residents can contact their local NRCS office about signing up for EQIP (pronounced “equip”) that is a cost-share program that is part of the Farm Bill. Specific practices you may want to ask about include: getting a forest stewardship plan written, Forest Stand Improvement, Early Successional Habitat Development/Management, and Tree/Shrub Establishment. The Tree/Shrub Establishment includes cost scenarios in PA for regeneration area protection, which is essentially a deer enclosure fence. There are other management practices that are focused on invasive or noxious species control and make a connection to enhancing conditions for natural regeneration. These practices include Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Brush Management and Herbaceous Weed Control.

Mr. Benner spoke about the Ash Tree updates along Creekside Drive. Mr. Benner and Ms. Blaythorne spent a morning inspecting the Ash Trees along the drive and possibly found the largest Ash Tree in Pennsylvania. It is possible that the tree is over 200 years old. Mr. Benner stated that within ten years or less all White Ash Trees will be gone in Pennsylvania due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

Ms. Alderfer stated she was in contact with Susan with Friends of the Delaware Canal and Bethany of DCNR and was told that there is not a long term plan for a fully functional canal and there is only limited funding from the State. The next construction project concerning the canal will be a bridge over the canal in Phillips Mill to begin next year.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – None

2017 Priorities – Tabled until next meeting

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Deer Management Update

No deer/red tags to date as doe season starts on September 16th, 2017.

Mr. Allen stated that Jean Weiss, Township Administrator, was looking into the delay of the deer tags distribution.

Ms. Tai stated that the online signup form for hunters/landowners is available on the township website but only three hunters have signed up, but no landowners. The township is still in need of landowners to sign up. She was able to talk to Senator McIlhinney at a trail ribbon cutting to ask him for help in getting the red tags.

On September 5th, Ms. Tai was contacted by Heather Cevasco, from the Senator's office. She indicated that Doug, from her office, has been working with Jean Weiss and the Game Commission regarding the tags and would be in touch when she has further information.

Aquetong Spring Park

A. Committee Update

It was noted that consultants for Solebury Township, Simone Collins, applied for a grant for the township for a trail that would be useable for all of Bucks County. A transportation alternative portion is proposed to be connected from other areas.

Ms. Lesh and Mr. Benner volunteered to draft an article on the park with a timeline and what would be the next steps on the development of the park. Chair Moule suggested to contact the Aquetong Watershed for additional information on the history and progress of the park. The Aquetong Watershed will hold their annual meeting on October 19th, 2017.

B. Invasive control at the park

It was noted that the Township Manager, Dennis Carney, has not been able to have the black plastic placed at the park to treat the area of phragmites due to the weather conditions.

Wild Area Stewardship

Ms. Blaythorne was absent from the meeting to comment.

Roadside Spraying

It was noted that PECO did some roadside spraying that did damage to some of the ground coverings.

Green Points for Building

Mr. Francis was absent from the meeting to comment.

Recycling at Parks

Ms. Lesh stated that the new proposed logo is being used within the schools in the New Hope Solebury District.

Ms. Alderfer suggested contacting the environmental groups/committees within the schools to patrol the recycling bins and talk about recycling among the students.

Ms. Tai spoke to Dudley Rice, Solebury Township Park and Recreation Director, to confirm that containers have been placed in the parks and if people are using them in the appropriate manner. People are finally getting it!

Penn East Pipeline Update

There was a brief discussion concerning the pipeline just to note it is moving forward in New Jersey and is out of Solebury Township's jurisdiction.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Alderfer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator