

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JANUARY 14th, 2020

PRESENT: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever, Hope Blaythorne, William Birnes, Barry Fetterolf, Mark Baum Baicker (Liaison) and Christine Terranova (Administrator).

AUDIENCE: Jim Mansfield (Audubon Advocacy Committee and a Solebury resident); Doug Shaw (Carversville resident); Lars Crooks (Deer Management interest and a Solebury resident); Phil Getty (Coppernose Creek Watershed and a Solebury resident); Michael Kennerley (Solebury resident and former Solebury Supervisor); Karl Pettit (Pidcock Creek Watershed and a New Hope resident) and Michael Zolkowitz (Aquetong Watershed).

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 10th, 2019

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by William Birnes, the meeting minutes for December 10th, 2019 were unanimously approved.

III. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by William Birnes, EAC unanimously agreed to nominate Christy Cheever as the 2019 Vice Chair of the Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Allen talked about EAC adopting a project to encourage an environmental interest where everyone can get involved whether it be a specific wildlife animal, a specific area of land or a task to hold interest within the community.

Chair Allen mentioned on Saturday, April 18th, the EAC committee will have a table setup at the Bucks County Audubon facility in Solebury to explain what our committee is all about and what current community issues are being addressed by the EAC.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Allen turned the meeting over to Ms. Blaythorne to address the local watershed committee members that were in attendance. Ms. Blaythorne asked for concerns or issues the watersheds may have in their area.

Mr. Kennerley, who is from the Cuttalossa watershed, stated he did not have any current issues but noted that monitoring has stopped that was done in the past. He would like to know where things stand with the monitoring of the various watersheds.

Mr. Zolkowitz stated they have been monitoring for a few years but Princeton Hydro has been collecting data as well.

Mr. Getty stated that you can encounter various readings even with a standard procedure.

Mr. Pettit suggested to continue the monitoring and possibly having the schools collecting the bugs and water critters and expand to other creeks in the area in order to create a standard procedure. Also placing saplings in the watersheds or planting trees would also help.

Ms. Blaythorne noted that a topic of concern for the Aquetong Watershed is the deer management. Below are additional topics that were discussed as concerns for all watersheds:

- Emerald Ash Borer
- Water monitoring – Currently the only real active water monitoring that is occurring in the township is at the Primrose Creek above and below the quarry, and the Aquetong, below the removed dam. It was suggested to identify some other waterways to conduct simple macro invertebrates testing to track the health of our local waterways.
- Tree Planting – As we address climate change initiatives in our township, a way to address this is to conduct tree plantings.
- Deer Management – This has been an ongoing topic of discussion in recent past years and considered an urgent issue. Chair Allen will keep us updated to the progress that is happening within the township.
- Stormwater Management (Development along Route 202) – This has been an ongoing topic of discussion in the past. Suggested to identify the areas in the

township EAC would consider a risk to know what needs to be addressed in future development requests.

- Insect Control/Invasive Species -- May want to track each occurrence to explore a solution in order to share with residents to help them address each issue.
- Adopt a Bird – The wood thrush would be a good example for residents to identify the risks our wildlife faces with climate change. It was also suggested to name a township plant too.

There was a brief discussion on climate change and what people can do individually to take it to the next level.

Mr. Pettit is looking for a process to follow for recycling in the township. How do we recycle and what are we restricted to when we recycle?

Ms. Blaythorne stated, on behalf of Primrose Creek, the equipment at the quarry is slowing being removed. The future of the quarry property is still undetermined.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Wild Area Stewardship (Hope Blaythorne)

Nothing to report

Plastic Regulation (Christy Cheever)

Nothing to report

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen met with Nate Spence, USDA Representative, to get an update on the status of the deer management within the township. Chair Allen gave an update on the red tags that are available and that the D Map program with 150 tags has not been as popular.

Mr. Crooks voiced his concerns of working with the USDA and the process for hunting the deer. Maybe a more creative way to handle the hunting on the properties and to possibly include a butchering service to give the meat to the needy people.

Chair Allen mentioned that the township is hoping to expand the properties to farmers and additional residential properties. One hundred seven properties are signed up for the program.

Mr. Crooks suggested to approach PECO about deer removal in the power line right-of-way within the township.

Mr. Getty suggested the township look into using lead-free bullets. He mentioned that the State of California has been enforcing the use of lead-free bullets.

Recycling (Christy Cheever)

Ms. Cheever stated she would try to meet again with the New Hope Solebury School for an update on what is going on currently with recycling within the school, and to follow up with the environmental club regarding the grant on educating the students.

Mr. Pettit suggested to have a local trash/recycle hauler visit the school to speak to the students about recycling.

It was noted to review the issue of having one trash hauler for the entire township rather than numerous independent haulers throughout the township. This is an issue that would have to be addressed with the township administration and township supervisors.

Ms. Cheever stated she is still working on the single page flyer on recycling for residents.

Concerning the distribution of the flyers, Chair Allen wanted to know why the township could not pay the service, that stuffs the tax bills, the additional fee to include the single page flyer. Ms. Terranova said she would check with administration on that matter.

Adopt A Highway (Christy Cheever)

Mr. Birnes received a positive response from Wells Fargo and McCafferty's concerning their participating in an Adopt A Highway program with Solebury Township. Ms. Cheever volunteered to compose a letter to McCafferty's to join to the program.

Environmental Restoration

Nothing to report

Dark Sky Ordinance (Hope Blaythorne)

Nothing to report

VII. Public Comment

Chair Allen stated that the next EAC meeting would cover goals and priorities for 2020.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator