

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**PRESENT:** Eric Allen (Chair), Doug Shaw, Barry Fetterolf, Jim Mansfield, Mark Baum Baicker (Liaison) and Christine Terranova (Administrator).

**ABSENT:** Christy Cheever (Via Phone Call), William Birnes and Hope Blaythorne

**AUDIENCE:** John Francis, Supervisor

## **I. OPENING OF MEETING**

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chair Allen welcomed the two new members appointed to the Council, Doug Shaw and James Mansfield.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Eric Allen, the meeting minutes for January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were unanimously approved.**

## **III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was noted that an EAC Network Conference would be held on May 2, 2020 at the Upper Merion Township Building, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. for training and networking for those already engaged in or interested in establishing an Environmental Advisory Council in their municipality. Ms. Blaythorne and Mr. Mansfield were interested in attending the event.

It was noted that there will be a PennEnvironment volunteer team meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., to discuss the important statewide legislation, strategizing for building power in target areas in Bucks County, and planning for the annual Climate Action Lobby Day, scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at the state capital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Allen noted that the Council will work on setting new goals/priorities for 2020.

Chair Allen stated that one of the priorities for 2020 would be invasive insects. In researching invasive insects in our area, it's clear the timing is right for focusing on the spotted lantern fly (SLF) because May and June are when the young SLF nymphs begin to hatch and spread. The USDA has dedicated resources to prevent the spread of the SLF since it causes significant damage to a variety of plants and trees that it feeds off of. A representative from the local Glenside USDA office will present background and approaches for preventing the spread of the SLF to us at our next EAC meeting.

Liaison Baum Baicker stated that the USDA has offered to come to your home and look for the Tree of Heaven because the Spotted Lantern will target this tree to nest in.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Wild Area Stewardship** (Hope Blaythorne)

Ms. Blaythorne sent an email to the Council members and watershed members on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 after surveying the Solebury creeks and doing a preliminary review:

Copper Nose Creek – As I followed the stream up from the canal, it seems to “hide” as you get closer to Sugan. I was concerned about the dam at the bridge being reconstructed at the corner of Saw Mill and Sugan. Seems there is no reason to keep it dammed up? I will inquire with Dennis.

Cuttalossa – I started at the canal and saw that the “falls” at the old Cuttalossa Inn are much wider. Not sure if that is land owned by that property and it seems like the start of the falls is man-made. I do think it is a good idea to do some water testing in the spring so we can have a baseline. I did not see a lot of erosion, etc. but did see invasive with watercress growing along the edges.

Primrose Creek – I focused on the area that is being restored, and could not see a huge improvement. I will report back to the quarry committee.

Pidcock Creek – I was not able to access at Bowmans but explored nearer the canal. Water testing should be done in the spring.

Aquetong – Soggy venture, you could see the new tree plantings near the Kate Smith house. I did go back another day to explore around the spring as well. The P & R committee will be exploring this moving forward.

Ms. Blaythorne stated she found a contact at Carversville Farm Foundation and will engage to learn more about their creek restoration effort. She presented to the board of the PCWA the need for water monitoring throughout the township. They want to help. I would like to propose that we seek some volunteers from the watersheds, etc., and do a preliminary study in the Spring.

Ms. Blaythorne noted that she would continue to review opportunities for tree plantings. PCWA is budgeting to address tree plantings along the Primrose in 2020. Meghan Rogolus has provided me with grant options.

### **Plastic Regulation** (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated that he would be sending out the revised draft of the plastic ordinance.

Liaison Baum Baicker stated that he would contact the Solicitor for direction on the plastics proposal.

### **Deer Management** (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated there has not been any change in the process of the deer management program in the last five year with the exception to having a full-time, USDA employee at the township since September, 2019. It has been noted that a cull may be considered by the supervisors to help in getting a better handle on the deer population. Liaison Baum Baicker suggested that a meeting with Dennis Carney (Township Manager), Eric Allen (EAC Chair) and John Francis (Supervisor) may be helpful in discussing the matter.

Chair Allen suggested possibly having a deer management forum for the residents.

### **Recycling** (Christy Cheever)

Ms. Cheever reached out to an organization called Recycling Partnership to request assistance with our efforts to educate the community about recycling. To date, she had not received a response from the company but hoping to find assistance from a national non-profit organization to achieve some recycling goals in the future.

It was suggested that Waste Management do a presentation on recycling to the local schools.

It was suggested to find out what procedural steps would be needed to have the township consider switching over to municipal trash and recycling, and to have one provider to mitigate most of the issues the township is having with encouraging consistency with curbside recycling.

Mr. Fetterolf suggested to limit the recycling process to four items in order to educate people on how to properly recycle.

Liaison Baum Baicker suggested to post signs to explain how the recycling process works for residents.

### **Adopt A Highway** (Christy Cheever)

Ms. Cheever stated that she has contacted 10 to 12 local landscaping companies to request an estimate for the road clean-up. She has one estimate and expecting two more. The one estimate was \$950 per clean-up. She mentioned that McCaffrey's was interested to get involved and would pay for the service to do the cleanup along a two-mile stretch along York Road. Ms. Cheever volunteered to draft a letter to the manager of the New Hope McCaffrey's (Lou Campo).

### **Environmental Restoration**

Nothing to report

### **Dark Sky Ordinance** (Hope Blaythorne)

This topic is to be changed to Lighting Ordinance rather than Dark Sky Ordinance.

Dennis Carney, Township Manager, sent an email to Hope Blaythorne stating that the Board of Supervisors have had a few discussions on this topic both for the HARB districts and the township as a whole. Nothing is budgeted for 2020 and the Board needs additional information from the EAC on what they wish to accomplish. This is not an easy task and a consultant would be required. If the EAC could provide additional goals to the Board liaison this would be helpful. This kind of ordinance revision could take a year or more to get through revisions and review by the Solebury Township Planning Commission and Bucks County Planning Commission after a new ordinance is drafted.

### **Ready for 100** (Jim Mansfield)

Mr. Mansfield made the following points concerning Ready for 100:

- Participate in the Sierra Club's "Ready for 100 Bucks County" renewable energy program
- Become educated on what's involved to support a goal of 100% sustainable energy by 2035
- Generate a draft plan for Solebury Township and present it to the supervisors

---

It was noted to add a new discussion item entitled, "Rules and Regulations" and would be assigned to Doug Shaw.

## **VII. Public Comment**

None

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Terranova  
EAC Administrator