

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

**PRESENT:** Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Hope Blaythorne, Jim Mansfield, Barry Fetterolf, William Birnes, Joe Kubiak, John Francis (Liaison) and Christine Terranova (Administrator)

**I. OPENING OF MEETING**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Upon a Motion by Jim Mansfield, seconded by Joe Kubiak, the meeting minutes for January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were unanimously approved.**

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was noted that the Board of Supervisors is requesting all committees to provide their view of the best purpose for the property that was recently purchased by Solebury Township along the Route 202 corridor between Reeder Road and the Logan Square Shopping Center. It is approximately 12 acres and can only be used for purposes of passive recreation, active recreation or cultural purposes. Chair Allen stated the committee would continue this discussion at the next monthly meeting(s).

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Ready for 100** (Jim Mansfield)

Mr. Mansfield stated that he and Mr. Francis will be doing a presentation at the March EAC meeting that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 16<sup>th</sup> and are asking for any feedback or suggestions the Council may have to offer on the presentation.

Mr. Mansfield gave a brief update of the Clean Energy Plan course that he and Mr. Francis are attending. Mr. Mansfield stated the course group will continue to review the draft of the Energy Transition Plan. At the same time, the class has been putting together energy profiles for each of the townships, which is a two-page summary of all the things that are in the plan. Lastly, Mr. Mansfield stated that he and Mr. Francis attend the Bucks County Ready for 100 each month and that group has drafted a resolution for Bucks County Ready for 100 program that they will be sending to the Commissioners for their consideration.

Mr. Francis added that Princeton, New Jersey has created a “Princeton Climate Action Plan” that has been circulated to their residents to get the word out on climate action.

### **Rules & Regulations** (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated there was nothing to add at this time.

### **Wild Area Stewardship/Tree City/Bird Town** (Hope Blaythorne)

Chair Allen stated that he circulated to the members an article entitled “Invasive Insects and Diseases Are Killing Our Forests”, published in The New York Times, regarding the hundreds of varieties of trees being destroyed by various insects.

Ms. Blaythorne further discussed issues regarding Bird town and how to strategize on creating the Wood Thrush bird as the Solebury bird. February 11<sup>th</sup> is designated as the official bird count day within communities where residents will actually count the number of birds and types of birds that gather on their property in a certain period of time.

Ms. Blaythorne briefly discussed the Upper Makefield tree program. It was mentioned that Dennis Carney, Township Manager, felt the township might be interested in the sale of plants and trees for the benefit of township programs.

Meghan K. Rogalus, Watershed Specialist for Bucks County Conservation District, sent out an email regarding the 2021 Mini-Grant Program Open to the committee where projects must support one or more of the Wild and Scenic Management Plan goals: water quality, natural resources, historic resources, recreation, economic development and open space preservation.

Chair Allen asked Mr. Fetterolf for any information regarding the progress of the Aquetong Spring Park. Mr. Fetterolf stated that progress was being made to putting a

plan together and having guidelines to follow in hopes to complete a concept by the end of the year.

### **Plastic/Recycling Regulations** (Christy Cheever)

Vice Chair Cheever stated there was nothing to add at this time. She will continue to work on the draft letter to the local businesses to start dialog regarding plastic bags.

Vice Chair Cheever stated that she did circulate an email to committee members regarding the possibility to adopt a portion of a highway in Solebury Township. She was able to reach out to PennDOT that suggests a portion of highway that runs right past the Township Building. The stretch of road is short (0.4 miles) and runs past the Laurel Park. Is it possible to include the cleanup to be a roadway/park clean-up for one day in Spring? Ms. Cheever will contact Dudley Rice, Director of Park and Recreation, to obtain more information about cleaning up the park.

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

Chair Allen stated that the drone survey that was to begin on February 15, 2021 has been postponed to February 22, 2021 due to the weather conditions which cause the deer to be less active. Mr. Allen has volunteered to be a spectator to observe how the process works with the drone survey.

Chair Allen stated there will be an informal meeting in the very near future of the deer committee to talk about objectives and updates.

### **Cold-Tar-Based Sealcoat** (Joe Kubiak)

Mr. Kubiak gave a presentation regarding the issues of cold-tar-base sealcoat with the following points:

- Since the last EAC meeting, Mr. Kubiak reviewed the ordinances of seven organizations and spoke directly to two representatives about their sealcoating bans. Only two (San Antonio, Texas and Washington, DC) of the seven ordinances mentioned are enforcing their bans. None of the other ordinances had any specifics about violations.
- We need to be more aggressive to coal-tar-based sealcoat because of the amount of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) it contains.
- PAHs are dangerous, toxic and have the ability to seep into our wells, streams and rivers that are so important to our environment.

- At the last EAC meeting, a member of the Aquetong Watershed Association shared his familiarity with PAH pollution from tire particles and described its act of remediation as a real-life example of environmental cleanup. For tire particles, the act of remediation is less when compared with what is required for coal-tar-based sealcoat because of the difference in PAH concentration.
- Tire particles have 86 milligrams of PAHs per kilogram or .0086%. Coat-tar-based sealcoat has 70,000 milligrams per kilogram or 7% of the total.
- Coal-tar-based sealcoat has over 800 times the amount of PHAs than tire particles. The remediation for sealcoat because of its PAH concentration becomes very expensive to clean up and is a significant polluter of the environment.
- In speaking with the individual who championed the Fox Chapel Borough ban, a Pennsylvania borough that became the first government body in the State to ban this sealcoat, the ban was well received by the borough residents and most residents were not aware of the significant health risks associated with the sealcoating product.
- It is felt to be too dangerous not to institute some type of regulation.
- After communicating with Michael Zolkewitz and Brian Keyes of the Aquetong Watershed, they are interested in supporting a sealcoat ban and offering to prepare a formal letter of support if the EAC decides to recommend a ban to the Board of Supervisors.
- It is felt that a ban would only be the most effective action.
- The letter to the township homeowner associations may need to be reviewed once again for a final draft depending on what the EAC and Board of Supervisors decide.

Liaison Francis stated he would reach out to the Township Manager, Dennis Carney, to discuss the possibility of having driveway contractors register with the Township prior to doing any work in the Township.

It was suggested to do a mailing to residents as a public notification on cold-tar-sealcoat in order to education the public with the proper information.

### **New Hope Solebury Quarry**

Liaison Francis stated there are ongoing issues with the pump on the site, which interferes with the water monitoring, and the Township is trying to resolve the issue with the responsible people involved.

### **Charging Stations** (Eric Allen)

Nothing to add at this time but the topic would remain on the agenda for future discussions.

## **VI. Public Comment**

None

## **VII. Adjournment**

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Christine Terranova  
EAC Administrator  
Solebury Township