

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting minutes from April 3, 2017

Call to order: Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

Attendance: Council members present were Mike Najarian, Fred Folmer, Daphne Meyer, Ken Norton and Marthe Olesh. Supervisor liaison Jake Meyer was also in attendance. There were no other persons present.

Approval of minutes: Najarian made a motion to accept the minutes from March 6, 2017 as submitted. D. Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: Folmer showed Council a stencil he had made which he thought would be more durable than the previous one he constructed. Supervisor Meyer offered to determine if the blue and white paint needed to identify the drains and other infrastructure could be supplied by the township's road department.

Municipal Building Wetland: Supervisor Meyer reported that in all probability the surveyor would be determining the the wetland boundaries during the coming week of April 3 through 6, 2017.

Berks County Environmental Organization Network (BCEON): Olesh and Folmer reported on the BCEON meeting they had attended on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center. They also circulated printed materials they had obtained about Nolde Forest, invasive plants and the invasive insects emerald ash borer and spotted lanternfly.

Junk Fair: Folmer volunteered to contact the Bethel Elementary School for permission for council members to view the students' projects sometime during the week of the fair, April 18 through 21, 2017. He was also to inform Township Manager Jayne Seifrit to release the necessary funds to provide the prize money to the winners.

Earth Day Litter Pickup: A final review of all preparations and responsibilities was made for the Earth Day litter pickup to be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Some adjustments in job assignments had to be made due to temporary mobility-reducing injuries sustained by two council members.

Airport Road Property Tour: Folmer reported on a walking tour of the township's Airport Road property conducted by the Recreation Board on Sunday, March 12, 2017. He also indicated he would be attending the next Rec Board meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

Atrazine Testing: Folmer reported he had contacted the coordinator of the atrazine testing to be done in the Susquehanna River Basin. He confirmed that the EAC will be included as participants with testing to be done on the Little Swatara Creek on May 3 and 10, 2017.

New Business:

Spotted Lanternfly Public Meeting: After reviewing the information from the BCEON meeting about the spotted lanternfly, Council agreed by consensus to make further inquiry re that invasive pest. Olesh volunteered to attend a public information meeting about it to be held at the Berks County Ag Center on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 and report to Council at the next meeting.

Ongoing Tabled Business: Folmer briefly commented on the currently proposed federal budget which contains a provision to cut the Environmental Protection Agency's funds by 39%. He pointed out how that might affect the Chesapeake Bay watershed's water quality monitoring and the pollution abatement program's goals and enforcement.

Adjournment: At 8:18 p.m. D. Meyer made a motion to adjourn. Norton seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)