

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting minutes from December 4, 2017

Call to order: Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:05 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: As no meeting was held in November, Norton made a motion to approve the minutes from October 2, 2017 as submitted. Member Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: There was no new activity or report.

Municipal Building Wetland: Member Meyer volunteered to contact the surveyor to ascertain when he will mark the wetland boundaries.

Recreation Board/Airport Road Property: Folmer indicated he would be attending the Rec Board meeting on December 21, 2017 and would report on any progress pertaining to the Airport Road property development.

Berks Nature/State of the Environment: Najarian reported on the State of the Environment breakfast meeting which he recently attended. He distributed a printed brochure the thrust of which was to recognize, promote and thank all the volunteer organizations which advocate for environmental issues in and around Berks County.

Chestnut Oak Tree Deaths: There was no new report.

New Business:

2018 Meeting Dates: Council reviewed the meeting dates for 2018. After a motion by Folmer and a second by Olesh, it was approved that EAC meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building on January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 10, October 1, November 5, and December 3.

Community Sustainability Seminar: Najarian informed Council there would be a Community Sustainability Seminar held in Harrisburg on December 12, 2017. Due to the location and a somewhat prohibitive registration fee, it was uncertain that anyone would be attending.

Gable and Midway Development: It was noted that the former Gable Truck Stop and the Midway exit properties have undergone significant development. Extensive excavation, concrete pad pouring and steel erection have occurred at both places.

Recycling: Supervisor Meyer reported that when the current agreement with the county expires, there will by financial necessity be a change in the township's current recycling operation. Although no official decision has been made to date, he indicated there might be a volunteer-staffed program 2 to 3 days per week and a nominal fee to pay for fencing and rollback dumpsters.

Ongoing Tabled Business: Folmer shared the following articles from the Lebanon Daily News: "Soil Being Removed Near Pipeline Incident" from October 16, 2017; "Lebanon County (& Five Others) Added to Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Zone" from November 6, 2017; "Mystery of Gas Wells and Unwell Foals" from November 25, 2017; "Group Lists Contaminated PA Military Sites as High Risk" from December 2, 2017 and "Commission Seeks Fracking Ban in Watershed Supplying Philadelphia and New York City" from December 2, 2017.

Adjournment: At 8:14 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. Najarian seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)