

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting minutes from January 9, 2017

Call to order: Secretary Folmer called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

Election of officers: Supervisor Meyer conducted the election of EAC Chairperson for 2017. After a motion by Folmer and a second by Norton, Najarian was elected. Najarian then conducted the elections for Vice Chairperson and Secretary. After a motion by D. Meyer and a second by Olesh, Norton was elected Vice Chair. After a motion by Norton and a second by D. Meyer, Folmer was elected Secretary.

Approval of minutes: Norton made a motion to accept the minutes from December 5, 2016 as submitted. D. Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: Folmer distributed the final draft of the request to be granted permission to identify and stencil some appropriate township infrastructure indicating drainage to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. After review and discussion it was decided, by consensus, to submit the request to the township supervisors. On a related note, Folmer shared a January 6, 2017 article from the Lebanon Daily News which reported on the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's biennial State of the Bay report. The 2016 report gave the bay a C minus grade as compared to the D plus it received in 2014. The overall grade assigned was a 34. (For perspective, a grade of 70 would indicate a "saved bay" while a perfect score of 100 would indicate "pristine" conditions). It was noted that while of the three largest states, which comprise 85% of the watershed, Maryland and Virginia are on track to achieve 2017 pollution reduction goals but Pennsylvania is not.

Recreation Board/Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources Grant: Folmer reported on a December 15, 2016 meeting of the Rec Board he had attended. He informed Council that at present the Rec Board has not devised a comprehensive plan to develop the Airport Road property and therefore would not be applying for a DCNR grant any time soon. It was felt the proper thing to

do is for Council to maintain contact with the Rec Board and offer such assistance as they might require in the meantime and then work with them to acquire a DCNR grant when they are ready.

Municipal Building Wetland: Supervisor Meyer informed Council that due to the winter weather there was no new information to report about the wetland.

Junk Fair: When queried by Council, Supervisor Meyer responded there was approximately \$500 to \$600 in the EAC's account thereby ensuring the ability to provide the three prizes of \$50 each to the winners. There was a brief discussion of establishing an additional winner to be chosen by the EAC but no official action was taken.

Earth Day Litter Pickup: Najarian volunteered to make the necessary arrangements to reserve the Bethel Township Community Library program room for the litter pickup on April 22, 2017.

New Business:

Berks County Environmental Organization Network (BCEON): In response to an email from Lisa Miller of the Berks County Conservation District (BCCD), Council chose from the most convenient of the proposed dates for the upcoming March meeting of the BCEON. Najarian volunteered to inform Miller of the choices.

EAC Network Conference: Najarian informed Council of the 2017 EAC Network Conference to be held on May 6, 2017 in Lancaster, PA. The conference program agenda, costs and registration information were shared. No member indicated intentions to attend nor was any official action taken.

Ongoing Tabled Business: There were no new reports.

Adjournment: At 8:06 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. Norton seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)