

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting minutes from July 11, 2016

Call to order: Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Attendance: Council members present were Mike Najarian, Fred Folmer, Daphne Meyer 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 approve the minutes from June 6, 2016 as presented. D.Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage: Folmer read an email he had received from Kate Keppen of the Berks County Conservation District which was a response to a request regarding guidance as to raising awareness of the Chesapeake Bay drainage system by marking culverts in the township. Her reply referenced an "attached form" about which Folmer said he would try to gather more information. He also distributed a map of Berks County which delineated all its different watersheds.

Recreation Board Meeting: Folmer reported he had attended the Bethel Township Recreation Board meeting on June 16, 2016. He informed Council that when he proposed the EAC and the Rec Board might work together on mutual interests and projects, they were open and agreeable to the suggestion.

New Business:

Township Property Purchase: Supervisor Meyer informed Council the township had recently purchased a 15 acre property along Airport Road. He added that at the Supervisors' meeting on July 18, 2016 they will be seeking suggestions as to how the property might be developed as a municipal park.

Wetland: Supervisor Meyer proposed that a small wetland located between the municipal building and the westbound I-78 offramp might be improved and maintained. That was followed by a brief discussion of wetlands in general and the removal of invasive species in particular.

Kenya Conversation: Supervisor Meyer reported that while on a recent trip to Africa he had met the Kenyan Environmental Commissioner. That official expressed a desire to initiate a conversation regarding deforestation and other environmental issues. Council suggested some organizations and websites for Meyer to relay to the commissioner.

Ongoing Tabled Business:

Marcellus Shale/Gas Pipelines: Folmer shared the following news articles from the Lebanon Daily News: July 8, 2016 - "EPA: Vet Other Routes for Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline"; July 8, 2016 - "County to Send Letter to DEP"; July 10, 2016 - "Mariner East II Pipeline Hearings Slated". He also cited from the op-ed page of July 11, 2016 - "Trading Bad Habits for Better Water".

Cancelled Meeting: Due to several members not being able to attend the next scheduled meeting on Monday, August 1, 2016, by mutual consensus it was decided to cancel that meeting.

Adjournment: At 8:34 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. D. Meyer seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)