

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting minutes from Monday, May 1, 2017

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, Ken Norton and Marthe Olesh. Supervisor liaison Jake Meyer was also in attendance. There were no other persons present.

Approval of minutes: D. Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes from April 3, 2017 as submitted. Olesh seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: Supervisor Meyer reported the township would be able to supply Council with the necessary paint to identify drainage infrastructure. By consensus, it was decided to postpone the project until there was warmer weather and until such time as two members were more fully recovered from temporarily reduced physical mobility.

Municipal Building Wetland: Supervisor Meyer reported the surveyor was supplied with all the wetland boundary points but as of the meeting date had not yet physically marked them. It was agreed that no restoration could be begun until the boundaries were identified.

Bethel Elementary School Junk Fair: Folmer shared pictures of the students' Junk Fair projects he had taken when he, D. Meyer and Olesh had visited the school on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. He reported the winners of the three category prize winners had not yet been chosen as of the day of the visit. D. Meyer volunteered to gather that information and make a report at the next meeting. Having been told the school had not informed the students beforehand there would be a \$50.00 prize for the winner of each of the three project categories, Folmer posed the rhetorical question of whether Council should stipulate that students be informed the prize money would be awarded only if the students are made aware of it when the projects are first assigned.

Earth Day Litter Pickup: Folmer reported nine persons participated in the Earth Day litter pickup on Saturday, April 22, 2017 held between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 P.M. A total of 55 bags of litter, 3 tires and miscellaneous other large objects were removed from the four ramps at the intersection of Interstate 78

and PA Route 645. That amount represented a substantial increase over the amounts collected in each of the years 2016, 2015 and 2014.

Recreation Board / Airport Road Property: Folmer reported he attended the Rec Board meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017. While there he shared with them a flyer announcing a family day to be held at a park in Spring Township, Berks County. He suggested to them it was the type of event with similar activities which might be held in the future at the Airport Road property once it has been developed into a park. He also informed Council the Rec Board is in the process of contacting the township engineer to begin planning for an entrance and a parking area at the property.

Atrazine Testing: Folmer reported he had received the atrazine test kit from the Penn State coordinator of testing for the Susquehanna River Basin. He explained the testing procedure to Council. The testing date for the Little Swatara Creek was tentatively set for Wednesday, May 10, 2017 depending on precipitation. The testing location was identified as 40.4438 degrees North latitude and 76.3315 degrees West longitude which is where the iron grate bridge crosses the creek at PA Route 645.

Spotted Lanternfly: Olesh reported she had attended a public information meeting re an invasive insect pest, the spotted lanternfly, held at the Berks Ag Center on Wednesday, April 5, 2017. She distributed identification materials, information about details of its life cycle, its current presence in Berks County and efforts being made to combat it.

New Business:

PA Land Trust Association (PALTA) Conference: Najarian reminded Council of the PALTA conference to be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 in Lancaster, PA. No members indicated they would be able to attend.

Ongoing Tabled Business: There was no business.

Adjournment: At 8:21 p.m. Najarian made a motion to adjourn. Folmer seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was set for Monday, June 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)