

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting minutes from October 3, 2016

Call to Order: Chair Najarian 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. Supervisor liaison Jake Meyer and Frystown Fire Company Chief Lee Groff were also in attendance. There were no other persons present.

Approval of Minutes: Member Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes from September 12, 2016 as submitted. Olesh seconded and the motion carried.

Hearing of Visitor: Chief Groff addressed Council in his capacity as Bethel Township Grant Facilitator. He informed Council about his past success in obtaining grants and the proper wording to be used in applying for grants in general. There was a discussion about applying for Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Environmental Education grants in particular.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: There was no report.

Recreation Board: Olesh and Folmer reported on the Recreation Board meeting they had attended on September 15, 2016. They informed Council about the suggestions made for the development of the township's property at 1076 Airport Road.

Municipal Wetland: Supervisor Meyer informed Council he had a map of the small wetland adjacent to the municipal building and that a surveyor had been contacted to have the boundary precisely delineated.

Grant: After having heard the grant facilitator's presentation, Council, by consensus, favored moving forward to procure a DCNR grant. Folmer volunteered to work with the facilitator and a representative from the Recreation Board to jointly apply for a grant to help develop the Airport Road property.

New Business:

Master Watershed Stewardship Program: Najarian read a press release from the Penn State Extension Service regarding the opportunity to participate in its program to become a Master Watershed Steward and the requirements thereof. While taking no official action, Council invited any individual members to enroll in the program by the January 31, 2017 deadline if they so desired.

Martin Land Development Plan: Council reviewed the Martin's Forestry plan to develop a sawmill/lumber processing plant on approximately 19 acres fronting Brown Road just west of the Berks Park 78. It was noted the property is located adjacent to the north boundary of Interstate 78 and is entirely within the Industrial/Commercial Zone on the township's official zoning map and, if developed, would not change the character of the surrounding area. No member voiced any objections to the plan nor was there anyone from the general public present to support or object to the plan.

Kittatinny Coalition Meeting: The annual meeting of the Kittatinny Coalition was announced for Thursday, November 3, 2016 to be held at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Education Building from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Several members expressed an interest in attending the free meeting.

2017 State of the Environment: The Berks Nature's 8th Annual State of the Environment Breakfast was announced for Thursday, November 10, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at the Crown Plaza Reading in Wyomissing. Two members expressed an interest in attending at a cost of \$30 each.

Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) Watershed Specialist: Council noted the announcement from BCCD's Kate Keppen that she will be leaving her position as watershed specialist to take employment elsewhere. Her replacement is to be announced.

Ongoing Tabled Business: There was nothing reported.

Adjournment: At 8:22 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. Norton seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)