

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting minutes from September 12, 2016

Call to order: Secretary Folmer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Attendance: Council members present were Fred Folmer, Daphne Meyer and Marthe Olesh. Supervisor liaison Jake Meyer was also in attendance. There were no other persons present.

Approval of minutes: Member Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes from July 11, 2016 as submitted. Olesh seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: Council discussed the email from Kate Keppen of the Berks Conservation District wherein she relayed guidance re the marking of storm water drains. They also reviewed the Storm Drain Stenciling Guide she had forwarded. Member Meyer then made the following motion: "In order to raise environmental awareness of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the Bethel Township EAC desires to stencil township storm drains which empty into the bay". Olesh seconded and the motion carried. Folmer was tasked to notify the township manager of that decision and request permission from the township supervisors.

Recreation Board meeting: Folmer reminded Council of the upcoming meeting of the Recreation Board on Thursday, September 15, 2016. He added that he would attend to represent the EAC in their discussion about the development of the recently purchased property bordering Airport Road.

Municipal Building Wetland: Supervisor Meyer informed Council it is the township's intent to place clean fill up to the approximate boundary of the small wetland adjacent to the municipal building. At that point the precise identification of the boundary would need to be delineated. After that, Council would be able to remove invasive species from the wetland.

New Business:

Audubon Kittatinny Ridge Report: Folmer reported he had received an email from Audubon's Jeanne Ortiz regarding the EAC's submission of items for her 2016 Kittatinny Ridge Report. It was agreed the Earth Day Litter Pickup, the Bethel Elementary School Junk Fair and the Water Quality Education Day should be included.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Grants: It was noted the PA DEP is currently accepting proposals, until December 16, 2016, for environmental education grants up to \$3,000. Council agreed it would like to apply for a grant but there was not enough time remaining to put together a satisfactory proposal for this year. Supervisor Meyer informed Council the township has an experienced grant writer. By consensus it was decided to invite that person to the next meeting to speak to Council about grant writing in general and DEP grants in particular.

Berks Nature Programs: Folmer informed Council about upcoming Berks Nature programs. Included were tree planting on October 15, American Red Cross Wilderness & Remote First Aid on October 2, 9 & 23 and the 10th Annual State of the Environment Breakfast on November 10.

Ongoing Business: Folmer circulated a copy of Pocket Guide to Eastern Streams by T. Travis Brown and Shanda Brown published in 2011 by Stackpole Books of Mechanicsburg, PA. He recommended that it would be an excellent addition to council members' reference libraries.

Adjournment: At 8:11 member Meyer made a motion to adjourn. Olesh seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)