

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting minutes from January 8, 2018

Call to order: 2017 Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

Election of officers: Supervisor Meyer conducted the election for Chairperson. A motion by Folmer, seconded by D. Meyer, to re-elect Najarian was made and carried. Chair Najarian then conducted the elections. A motion by Folmer, seconded by D. Meyer, was made and carried for the re-election of Ken Norton for Vice Chairperson. A motion by D. Meyer, seconded by Najarian, was made and carried to re-elect Folmer for Secretary.

Approval of minutes: D. Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes from December 4, 2017 as submitted. Najarian seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: There was no new activity or report. Folmer then shared the December, 2017 issue of The Chesapeake Bay Journal with Council. He referenced an article about the Hellbender being named the Pennsylvania official state amphibian because it requires pristine streams in which to live. He then offered the journal to other council members to read on a rotating basis.

Municipal Building Wetland: Having yet to receive any confirmation from the surveyor who is to establish the wetland boundaries, D. Meyer volunteered to contact him. If no definitive date as to when the survey would be made, a suggestion was made to contact a different surveyor.

Recreation Board/Airport Road Property: Folmer reported he had attended the Rec Board meeting on December 21, 2017. He informed Council they had permission from the Board of Supervisors to have the property surveyed by Devonne Henne and are moving forward. He added that an adjacent property owner attended the meeting and there was a dialogue between the Rec Board and the property owner re the general development plans.

Chestnut Oak Deaths: Najarian reported he had contacted the Berks County Conservation District and the Penn State Extension concerning the apparent deaths of local chestnut oak trees. He was informed they were not aware of a major die off. He indicated he would pursue the issue with a Department of Conservation of Natural Resources forester, John Nissen.

Township Recycling: Supervisor Meyer reported the township's recycling dumpsters were removed. He further informed Council there was a resident, Larry Schmehl, who has volunteered to coordinate other volunteers to provide at least a part time recycling opportunity to residents providing the township purchases dumpsters and other equipment. The topic was scheduled to be discussed at the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 15, 2018.

#### New Business:

Annual Litter Pickup/Great American Cleanup: The date for the EAC's Annual Litter Pickup was set for April 21, 2018 with the rain date set for April 28th. No other details were established. Folmer then shared information about the 2017 Great American Cleanup of PA from a brochure he received from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful based in Greensburg, PA. He informed Council of the following: there were 7,280 events; 132,695 volunteers; 5,346,943 pounds of trash disposed; 11,168 miles of roads, shoreline & trails cleaned; 16,437 trees, flowers & shrubs planted and 20,858 tires properly disposed.

Junk Fair: There was a discussion re providing prize money to the winners of the Bethel Elementary School's 2018 Junk Fair. Since two council members were absent, by mutual consent that topic was tabled until the February 2018 meeting.

Spotted Lanternfly: Folmer informed Council there was to be a free public informational meeting regarding the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect currently spreading through Berks and 12 surrounding counties. The meeting was scheduled to be held at the Berks County Agricultural Center on January 25, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Folmer indicated he was planning to attend and would contact Olesh to determine if she might attend as well.

Ongoing Tabled Business: Folmer shared the following articles from the Lebanon Daily News: "Pipeline Work Resumes After Lebanon County Spill" from December 29, 2017; "Feds Rescind Rules for Fracking, Other Drilling Practices" from December 30, 2017; "Sunoco Gas Pipeline Construction Shut Down" from January 4, 2018; "Trump's Actions Reignite States' (Oil Drilling) Rights" from January 8, 2018.

Adjournment: At 8:15 p.m. D. Meyer made a motion to adjourn. Folmer seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)