

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting minutes from February 5, 2018

Call to order: Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:10 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: Olesh made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2018 as submitted. D. Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: Folmer presented a list of multiple storm water drains and other infrastructure to be painted and stenciled. He then made a motion to submit the list to the Board of Supervisors for permission to proceed. Najarian seconded and the motion carried.

Municipal Building Wetlands: D. Meyer reported she had not received a confirmed date from the proposed surveyor who was to identify the wetland boundaries. Najarian volunteered to contact an alternative surveyor.

Recreation Board/Airport Road Property: Folmer reported he had not attended the Rec Board meeting in January but was planning to attend an upcoming meeting.

Chestnut Oak Deaths: Najarian reported he had spoken with PA State Forester John Nissen concerning the deaths of numerous chestnut oak trees in the township. He relayed to Council that the very dry conditions during 2016 combined with gypsy moth defoliation in 2016 and 2017 put severe stress on trees in general and had made that species in particular susceptible to a host specific fungus which resulted in higher than normal fatality for them. Furthermore, he added that chestnut oaks along the Kittatinny (i.e. Blue) Ridge from the Delaware Water Gap to Port Clinton had been affected.

Township Recycling: Supervisor Meyer informed Council that township resident Larry Schmehl is working on a recycling plan with details to be forthcoming. Also, it was noted there was an informational display about recycling on the bulletin board in the municipal building vestibule.

Spotted Lanternfly: Olesh and Folmer presented a report on the Spotted Lanternfly public information workshop they had attended at the Berks County Ag Center on January 25, 2018. The verbal report included multiple printed hand out sheets about the breeding cycle, quarantine area, harmful effects and the control efforts to prevent the further spread of that invasive insect pest.

Junk Fair: There was a discussion concerning support of the Bethel Elementary School's annual Junk Fair. Folmer made a motion that Council once again provide a \$50.00 prize to the winner of each of the three categories of projects along with a request that the teacher in charge of the Junk Fair inform the students ahead of time that the prize money will be offered. D. Meyer seconded and the motion carried. Folmer volunteered to contact the school and inform them of the decision.

Earth Day Litter Pickup: No further details were planned and discussion was tabled until the March, 2018 meeting.

New Business:

Miller Plan: Council reviewed the plan submitted by resident Dwight Miller concerning changes to the boundaries of property lines to several properties he owns in Bethel Village. No members could discern any adverse environmental impact ensuing from the proposed changes and were not opposed to it. They then requested Supervisor Meyer to inform the other supervisors.

Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (DCNR) Grants: Najarian shared a brochure from DCNR announcing grants available to help communities plan, acquire and develop parks, recreational facilities and trails. Folmer volunteered to share the information with the Rec Board when he attends their upcoming meeting.

Ongoing Tabled Business: Folmer shared the following article from the Lebanon Daily News: "States Clamor to Be Dropped From the Offshore Drilling Plan" from Thursday, January 11, 2018.

Adjournment: At 8:31 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. D. Meyer seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)