

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

Call to order: Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 February 5, 2018 as submitted. Najarian seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: Folmer volunteered to send the list of Frystown village infrastructure to be stenciled with "DRAINS TO CHESAPEAKE BAY" to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

Municipal Building Wetlands: There was no new report.

Recreation Board/Airport Road property: Folmer reported he had contacted the Rec Board Chair and Secretary requesting agenda time to discuss the progress of the development of the Airport Road property and the announced PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources grants to develop recreational projects.

Spotted Lanternfly: Supervisor Meyer reported that as the Bethel Township representative he had attended a meeting of the Berks County task force to combat the Spotted Lanternfly. He had been provided with three large, heavy gauge sheet metal signs depicting that invasive insect's life cycle stages and information about how to prevent their spread to unaffected areas. D. Meyer volunteered to have one displayed in the Bethel Library. Folmer took two signs so one could be provided to Camp Swatara and the other to possibly be displayed in the Bethel Post Office. There was a brief discussion of hosting a public informational seminar similar to that which Olesh and Folmer had recently attended however no specific action was taken.

Township Recycling: Supervisor Meyer reported the volunteer coordinator, Larry Schmehl, has indicated he has enough other volunteers to staff a recycling center. Meyer also reported the township is discussing buying rollback dumpsters from or through the county.

Bethel Elementary School Junk Fair: Folmer reported he had been in contact with the teacher, Amy Schlater, coordinating the Junk Fair. He informed her the EAC would be supporting the Junk Fair by providing a \$50.00 prize to the winner of each of the three categories of student projects - Beauty, Functional and Practical. He informed Council she thanked the EAC for its support and indicated the Junk Fair would run through the third week of April, 2018 and the winners announced shortly thereafter.

Earth Day Litter Pickup: Najarian provided a check list of tasks to be done before, during and after the litter pickup on April 21, 2018. Council members volunteered for all the job assignments and responsibilities.

New Business:

Landowner Conservation Meeting: It was announced there would be a meeting sponsored by Berks Nature and Kittatinny Ridge Coalition for landowners on and alongside the Kittatinny (Blue) Ridge to learn about conservation opportunities and land protection. The meeting was scheduled to held at Kauffman's BBQ Restaurant at 33 Gravel Pit Road, Bethel at 6:30 p.m. on March 22, 2018. Several members indicated an interest in attending.

Ongoing Tabled Business: Folmer shared the following articles from the Lebanon Daily News: "Sunoco Fined \$12.6 Million; Pipeline Project to Resume" from February 9, 2018; and "Growing Frustration: Woman Blames Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Work for 'Destruction' to Grandparent's Farm" and "Work to Resume at Site of at Least Three Incidents" both from February 25, 2018; and "Beech Trees Booming As Climate Changes" from March 5, 2018. Najarian displayed a full page paid advertisement in the Reading Eagle and paid for by Sunoco Pipeline/Energy Transfer which touted "Mariner East - Going Above and Beyond: Energy Transfer and Sunoco Pipeline Are Committed to the Long Term Integrity and Safe Operation of the Mariner East 2 Pipeline" from Sunday, March 4, 2018. From that same date, Folmer displayed a one-half page paid advertisement, also paid for by Sunoco Pipeline/Energy Transfer, in the Lebanon Daily News which claimed "Working Together to Build the Safest Pipelines."

Adjournment: At 8:14 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. Norton seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)