

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting minutes from May 7, 2018

Call to order: Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 April 2, 2018 as submitted. D. Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: By mutual consent it was decided to meet on June 16, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Frystown to stencil the drainage infrastructure which had been previously approved by the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Meyer volunteered to procure the spray paint from the township.

Municipal Building Wetlands: Najarian volunteered to get an estimate from an alternate surveyor to establish the wetland boundaries.

Recreation Board/Airport Road Property: Folmer reported he had attended a meeting of the Rec Board with the Township Engineer Gary Kraft on April 18, 2018. Kraft submitted a drawing of the initial plan to develop the property as a day-use municipal park. Folmer relayed to Council the Rec Board had requested the EAC to walk the property to begin identifying natural points of interest which might be used to plot a self-guided nature trail. By mutual consent Council picked the date of June 17, 2018 to comply with the request. There was also a brief discussion of possible ways of identifying the features and points of interest.

Township Recycling: Supervisor Meyer informed Council the township was in discussion with Tulpehocken Township to explore the possibility of the two townships of sharing the costs of having a combined recycling program.

Junk Fair: Folmer reported he had received an email from Amy Schlater, the teacher who coordinated the Bethel Elementary Junk Fair, conveying the names and pictures of the winners. The category winners were: Beauty: Breona Fair; Practical: Brandon Yeakley; and Functional: Sarah Watsula.

Spotted Lanternfly: The dates of September 10, 11, 13, or 18 were picked as possible choices to host a public informational meeting about spotted lanternfly in the municipal building. Folmer was tasked to clear the dates with the Township Manager and then relay them to Evan Corondi at the Berks County Conservation District to choose one to hold the seminar. On a related note, Olesh shared the suggestion that a mixture of one-quarter cup of dish detergent with one gallon of water is an environmentally safe, low cost way to kill the invasive pests.

Earth Day Litter Pickup: Folmer reported that at the litter pickup, 18 volunteers (11 adults & 7 children) each working from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon collected 71 bags of trash, 5 tires, a mattress and miscellaneous other large objects from all the on/off ramps at the intersection of Interstate 78 and Route 645.

Land Conservation: Having not heard anything from Camp Swatara concerning preservation or easements, Folmer volunteered to contact the camp's property Committee Chairperson.

New Business: There was no new business.

Ongoing Tabled Business: Folmer shared the following articles from the Reading Eagle: "Sunoco to Relocate Families Near Pipeline" (April 3, 2018); "Pipeline Fine to Fund Environmental Grants" (April 18, 2018); "PA to Plant 10 Million Trees to Curb Water Pollution" (April 25, 2018); "E. Coli in Well Has Caernarvon Man Pushing Back at State, Pipeline Owners" (April 25, 2018) and "Mariner East 1 Pipeline Work Can Resume" (May 4, 2018).

Adjournment: At 8:30 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. D. Meyer seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Twp. Municipal Bldg.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)

