

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting minutes from August 6, 2018

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

Attendance: Council members present were Mike Najarian, Fred Folmer, Ken Norton and Marthe Olesh. There were no other persons in attendance.

Approval of minutes: Norton made a motion to approve the minutes from July 2, 2018 as submitted. Olesh seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: There was no new report.

Municipal Building Wetlands: There was no new report.

Recreation Board/Airport Road Property: There was no new report.

Spotted Lanternfly (SPLF): With the upcoming public information seminar on SPLF scheduled for the next Council meeting on September 10, 2018, Najarian volunteered to submit press releases to the Reading Eagle and other news outlets. Folmer volunteered to work through the township office to have an announcement placed on the township website as well as to promote it on social media. Folmer then shared multiple recent news articles from the Reading Eagle: "Experts Get Eyeful of Perilous Pest" (7/17/18); "Drive Is On to Contain Unwanted Bug" (7/19/18); "Christmas Tree Growers Learn Perils of the Lanternfly Infestation" (7/22/18); from the Eagle's Business News supplement "Horde of the Flies: Battle of the Bug" (7/24/18); and from the Eagle's Berks Country supplement "How to Deal With the Spotted Lanternfly" (8/1/18).

Land Conservation: Folmer reported he met with Barry Garman, the Chairperson of the Camp Swatara Property Committee, on Saturday, August 4, 2018, during the camp's 75th anniversary celebration. He relayed that Mr. Garman informed him the Property Committee had discussed the subject of a land conservation agreement between the camp and Berks Nature which Folmer had suggested to the camp's Maintenance Director several months ago. The Property Committee had officially passed it along to the Camp Swatara Board of Directors for further action. That board will ultimately decide to put the Camp Swatara lands into a conservation trust or not.

New Business: There was no new business.

Ongoing Tabled Business: Folmer shared the following news articles from the Reading Eagle: “Berks Conservation District to Conduct Free Tire Drop-off” (7/31/18); “Operators to Plug Abandoned Gas, Oil Wells” (7/31/18); Hawk Mountain, Berks Nature Helping to Protect Habitat” (8/2/18); and Pipelines Near Finish, Won’t Carry Gas Just Yet” (8/4/160).

Adjournment: At 8:37 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. Norton seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)