

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting minutes from February 4, 2019

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 Ken Norton. 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 January 7, 2019 as submitted. Najarian seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Chesapeake Bay Drainage Awareness: Folmer shared a Reading Eagle news article from January 13, 2019 entitled "Pollution, Poor Water Quality Drop Chesapeake Bay Grade". The report stated the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's biennial health score, based on 13 indicators, was down one point and currently stands at 33 out of the desired goal of 40 for 2025. The ultimate goal of 70 would represent a saved bay while a score of 100 would represent the bay's pristine condition as described in the 1600's. The drop was largely attributed to increased pollution and poor water quality caused by 2018's record rainfall and runoff in the Susquehanna River basin.

Municipal Building Wetland: There was no new report.

Recreation Board/Airport Road Property: Folmer informed Council he helped members of the Rec. Bd. with their work day on January 19, 2019. From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 8 people cut down small trees and fed them through a commercial size wood chipper. He reported almost an acre was cleared to make way for the parking area, tot lot and pavilion which are to be eventually built there for the township's day use park. He also informed council members another work day was planned for Saturday, February 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., weather permitting, to continue the brush clearing process.

Township Recycling: Folmer cited a Reading Eagle news article from January 13, 2019 entitled "Rural Recycling Hit Hard by Shifting Scrap Market". It described how, for small, rural municipalities, the cost of recycling plastics, glass and paper has become prohibitively expensive. The article's contents went hand-in-hand with the information from Union Township, Lebanon County, which Folmer presented to Council at its January, 2019 meeting. (See January minutes). By mutual agreement, Council thought it best not to pursue the establishment of a recycling program until such time as the cost of operating one is economically more viable.

Land Conservation: There was no new report.

Junk Fair: There was no new report.

New Business: There was no new business.

Ongoing Tabled Business:

Spotted Lanternfly: Folmer referenced the following articles from the Reading Eagle: "Her Day at the Farm Show - Mifflin Student Wins State's Pest-Targeting Calendar Contest" (from Jan. 9, 2019); "Meeting its Maker - Tree of Heaven Being Felled Across Berks Because It's a Spotted Lanternfly Favorite" (from Jan. 25, 2019); and "She Fuels a Funny on the Fly - A Comic-Strip Artist Draws Upon a Berks Woman's Spotted Lanternfly Suggestion" (from Feb. 2, 2019).

Marcellus Shale/Pipelines: A Reading Eagle article from Jan. 18, 2019 was cited: "PUC Upholds Decision to Allow Pipeline project to Proceed".

Adjournment: At 8:02 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. Norton seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)