

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting minutes from August 5, 2019

Call to order: Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Attendance: Council members present were Mike Najarian, Fred Folmer, Daphne Meyer, Ken Norton, and Marthe Olesh. Township resident Robin Norton was also in attendance. There were no other persons present.

Approval of minutes: Najarian made a motion to approve the minutes from July 1, 2019 as submitted. Meyer seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Municipal Building Wetland: Najarian reported he had contacted two surveyors, DeVon Henne and Zechman Surveying, and requested a quote from each to establish the wetland boundaries.

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

Land Conservation: In response to the request for information from Nate Lotze, of the PA Land Conservation Association, Folmer distributed a printed handout detailing all the EAC's projects and activities going back to its formation in 2007. After reviewing the information Council instructed Folmer to forward it to Lotze.

New Business:

Litter Ordinance: There was no report.

Submitted Plans: Council reviewed four development plans:

1. L.S. Bio-Char: On a property located on Kline Road just north of I-78, this plan requested approval to produce bio-char, a soil supplement derived from animal manure. The location is in the Agricultural Preservation district. The current use of the property is animal husbandry as is the proposed use. By consensus, Council had no objection to the approval of this plan.
2. Adam Martin Poultry Operation: This plan requested approval of a fourth chicken barn to an already existing operation located on Midway Road Between I-78 and Schubert Road in the Ag Preservation district. The current use is animal husbandry as is the proposed use. By consensus, Council had no objection to the approval of this plan.

3. West Run Distribution Facility: Located in the commercial corridor just south of I-78 bordering Deck Road, this plan requested approval for the construction of four distribution warehouses totaling some 7,000,000 square feet. Citing the same objections as in similar previously submitted plans (see approved minutes from January and July of 2019), by consensus, Council was not in favor of the approval of this plan.

4. Subdivision Plan: This plan requested the subdivision of an already existing property along PA Route 419 south of I-78 and north of Old PA Route 22. It included a proposal to construct a fenced-in, macadam-covered outdoor storage area of some 6.4 acres. Council concerns were that runoff from one, or more, exceedingly heavy rainfall events would overwhelm the storm water retention capabilities of the proposed basins indicated on the plan drawing and that the discharge appears to drain onto an adjacent field and then to the Little Swatara Creek. By consensus, Council was not in favor of the approval of this plan.

Adjournment: At 8:35 p.m. Folmer made a motion to adjourn. Najarian seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Fred Folmer, Secretary to Council)