

Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2021

Call to Order: Chair Najarian called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Attendance: Council Members present were Mike Najarian, Daphne Meyer, Marthe Olesh and Tamara Ritter. 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 the August 2, 2021 meeting. Ritter seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Municipal Building Wetlands: Christian Martinez, the Eagle Scout, working on the wetlands for his Eagle Scout badge, has finished. We walked out to view his handiwork. He made an amazingly big dent but there is still a lot left to clear. We reviewed an email from Sarah Chudnovsky of Berks Nature dealing with wetland restoration. It was decided D. Meyer will contact Gregg Adams at the Blue Mountain Wildlife Group which oversaw the restoration of a large wetland area at the Kernsville Recreation Area in Hamburg. We are hoping we might be able to tour that restoration area.

Recreation Board/Airport Road Property: Supervisor Meyer they are still in the process of getting bids out. They have hired Per Matt Hassler to grind down the stumps still there. Their next meeting is the 16th of this month at 7:00 pm. Najarian offered to attend and share the EAC's suggestions concerning the trails.

New Business:

Olesh attended the **Stakeholder Meeting** at Kauffman's on August 26th. She gave us a short summary on the meeting having to do with the watershed implementation plan, findings from watershed assessment and field work, as well as watershed funding opportunities.

Ongoing Tabled Business:

Annual EAC Litter pickup: Since the EAC did not hold its annual litter pickup in the Spring of 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19, we decided to have a mini cleanup this Fall. We chose Sunday October 3 from 9:00-11:00 am and decided to work on sprucing up the I78/Route 501 on/off ramps.

D. Meyer read an **article on microplastics** which are small pieces of plastics less than 5 millimeters long (0.2 inches). These tiny pieces of plastic can be harmful to the oceans and marine life. They have been detected in commercial seafood meaning anyone who eats the fish could be consuming plastic.

She also read an article on how the Nature Conservancy and members of several Native American Pueblos in New Mexico are gathering millions of seeds from the healthiest **ponderosa pine trees** in the hottest, driest sites by: snipping off closed cones; letting them dry in the sun so they open and release their seeds; seeds are machine cleaned; seeds are then potted and drought hardened in a nursery for up to two years and then transplanted to areas that have burned, leaving no surviving trees to naturally reseed the area.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 pm by Ritter. Olesh seconded and the motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Bethel Township Municipal Building.

(Minutes submitted by Daphne Meyer, Secretary to Council)