

# **PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP EAC MEETING MINUTES**

**The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, Pennsylvania**

**EAC Members in attendance were:** EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop, Robert Cornman, Robert Simpson Bruce Rabenold, Supervisor Jane Mellert and Don Moore. Vice Chairperson Robin Dingle was absent.

EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

## **MINUTES**

Terry Kleintop asked for a motion to approve the October 13, 2015 minutes.

**Bob Simpson made a motion to approve the October 13, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Don Moore and passed by unanimous vote.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant Update – Little Bushkill Creek**

- **2013 PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant** – Tom previously informed Terry that the reimbursement was received.
- **The 2014 PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant is in the amount of \$134,512.**
  - The ELM Group was paid approximately \$10,000. The contract with The ELM Group has been officially cancelled.
  - Robin Dingle, Terry Kleintop and Tom Petrucci met and composed a revised list of testing sites. The list was reviewed by the EAC. The testing plan includes 8-10 sites for the Borough of Wind Gap. The Wind Gap Council previously agreed to a \$1,500 contribution toward the testing.
  - The list of the stream test sites will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 11, 2015.
  - Terry, Robin and Tom will meet on November 25th at 4 pm.
  - Terry, Robin and Tom will be talking to three of the property owners regarding possible restoration work before Thanksgiving. State regulations for buffers will need to be followed on each side of the stream. In a couple of the locations cattle should be fenced off from the stream and have a trough water supply. Pete Zakanycz the District Conservationist at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service of Pennsylvania will be involved in the process
  - A progress plan report must be sent to DEP representative Ron Yablonsky by January 27, 2016.
  - The timeline for the RFP process and DEP reporting were outlined at the October EAC meeting.

- The goal is to have an Environmental Engineering firm hired in time to start stream testing on May 1, 2016 with a second round of testing in the fall.

**Bob Simpson made a motion to send a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the 2016 Little Bushkill Creek testing schedule. Bob Cornman seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.**

#### **Northampton County Farmland Preservation**

The Board of Supervisors did not grant approval for a letter to be sent out to eligible residents to apply for the 2016 farmland preservation process.

**Bob Simpson made a motion to ask the Board of Supervisors to explain the reason why a letter to the residents regarding the Farmland Preservation process was not approved and explain where the Board stands regarding the preservation process. Bob Cornman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.**

Don Moore previously spoke to Northampton County Councilman Scott Parsons regarding Northampton County's plan for funding the Farmland Preservation program. He noted that it seems like the County is trying to micro manage the program.

As of this date Northampton County budgeted the following new money for the 2016 Farmland Preservation process:

- Money from the sale of Chrin property estimated at \$200,000
- Act 319 Roll Back Tax money estimated at \$300,000

#### **Item for Consideration and Discussion – Proposed Property Acquisitions for Plainfield Township - West Side of Route #33 Trail Head (Eighth Street Extension)**

Wildlands Conservancy representatives Christopher Stroehler and Dawn Gorham gave a presentation at the last EAC meeting. The Wildlands Conservancy would like to assist the Township in the purchase of the Curcio and Harper tracts in order to provide Open Space and an Appalachian Trailhead parking lot. This would create a trail hub of connections to the Appalachian Trail, PPL Trail, and a possible proposed connection to the Plainfield Township Recreation Trail.

A majority of the EAC members previously voted to recommend the purchase of the Curcio and Harper parcels. Jane Mellert and Tom Petrucci reviewed the land parcels for consideration. A list of the parcels were compiled and copied to the EAC for review. The EAC's letter of recommendation and supporting documentation including the land map, block and lot numbers were attached to the EAC agenda. The EAC recommended revisions to the letter.

The EAC is requesting that the Board authorize the following two actions as a result of the information presented in the letter:

- Move forward with the land appraisal process
- Authorize Mike Kukles to conduct a feasibility study

The Board of Supervisors will review the letter and supporting documents at the November 11, 2016 Board meeting.

### **Riparian Buffer Protection**

#### **Ordinance 342 and 357 need to be updated.**

There should have been two ordinances sent in Terry's email. Only one of the Ordinances was in the attachment.

It was noted that Tree harvesting was conducted on the Harper property located on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Bruce Rabenold noted that there are inconsistencies in our Ordinances that need to be corrected.

**Plainfield Township Bio solids Ordinance** – This ordinance should be looked at in the future. The Ordinance was written in the early 1990's. There is a lot of controversy in neighboring municipalities regarding sludge being applied on farmland. There are different types of sludge. The application process is regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Bob Cornman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. The motion was seconded by Bob Simpson and passed by unanimous vote.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, EAC Secretary