

The Plainfield Township EAC meeting was held on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Plainfield Township Municipal Building. Those in attendance were:

Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairman (absent)	Robert Cornman – Vice Chairman
Robin Dingle – EAC Member	Don Moore – EAC Member
Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member	Robert Simpson – EAC Member
Jane Mellert, EAC Secretary and Member	Tom Petrucci – Plainfield Twp. Manager

Vice Chairperson Position– Bob Cornman was absent from the January 11, 2016 EAC meeting when the nomination and vote for the Vice Chairman position was taken. Bob was contacted after the January 11th meeting and accepted the Vice Chairman position.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

Vice Chairman Bob Cornman asked for a motion to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes.

Robin Dingle made a motion to approve the draft January 11, 2016 EAC minutes. Bob Simpson seconded the motion. The motion carried with Bob Cornman abstaining due to not being in attendance at the January 11th meeting.

2015 EAC YEAR END REPORT

Vice Chairman Bob Cornman asked if there were any comments or changes requested for the 2015 Year End Report compiled by EAC Secretary Jane Mellert. There being none he asked for a motion to approve the report.

Don Moore made a motion to accept the report as presented. Bob Simpson seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

2014 PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant Update – Little Bushkill Creek

- Robin Dingle and Tom Petrucci met with the Stuber's, and Taylor's on Saturday January 16th They still need to meet with Achenbach's. Robin Dingle reported that they are trying to design the RFP and need to know the costs of the improvements required for the properties. One property owner has accepted and is willing to sign the Conservation Easement. The other landowner did not want to get involved. They still need to add the third property owner. The cattle crossing at the one property (Stuber) will require a permit in order to put a cattle crossing across the stream. It is a common easement between the properties. He is willing to give the 35 feet on each side of the stream for a total 70 foot crossing. Taylor declined fencing the cattle off from the stream due to having a three to five year plan for his property. A lot of progress has been made and the RFP draft is close to being completed.
- A letter of commitment has been received from Wind Gap regarding their participation and contribution for water sampling.
- The grant revisions will be submitted to the DEP by the extended deadline of February 26, 2016.

- The draft RFP will be emailed to the EAC for review and will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

Northampton County Open Space Program - 2016 Watershed/Environmental Restoration Projects

Tom Petrucci reported that the watershed and stream bank restoration grant amounts will be approximately \$25,000 - \$50,000 with a 50% match requirement. Additional information regarding the grant requirements is not available at this time.

Bryan Cope the Northampton County Open Space Coordinator is the contact regarding the program.

2016 Northampton County Farmland Preservation Applicants

Jane Mellert contacted Maria Bentzoni the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Administrator. Maria only provided that there were 20 applicants for 2016.

2015 Northampton County Farmland Preservation

Maria Bentzoni provided the following information:

- Greggo - Parcels #1, #2 and #3 are all in the survey portion of the process.
- Glennon – The survey is complete and a meeting will be held with the landowner. The settlement should occur in March.
- Lock – The survey is being completed and will be submitted. The settlement should occur in April.
- Monocacy Heights – The survey is being completed and will be submitted. There are title issues to be resolved which may take a while. The settlement should occur in April or May.

Plainfield Township Open Space Funds

- EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop emailed a WFMZ article about the Lehigh County Partnership Program to the EAC members for review.
- The Board of Supervisors will review the process of removing the EIT collection for Open Space Preservation at the February 10, 2016 meeting.
- Tom Petrucci composed a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors. The letter requests that the Board allow the EAC to conduct a study of the Open Space Preservation Program. If the Board approves the study, the information will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The EAC would like the Board to have additional information prior to considering a vote to place the removal of the tax on the ballot.

Bob Cornman made a motion to approve that Tom Petrucci send the draft letter regarding Open Space Fund EIT collections to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Don Moore and passed by unanimous vote.

2013 PA Open Space Law – ACT 115 (Amendments)

The amendment was signed by the Governor of Pennsylvania on December 18, 2013. It improves the Open Space Law by allowing for additional uses of 25% of the EIT collections for open space purposes.

Tom Petrucci will pursue clarification of the law through Solicitor Backenstoe.

Appalachian Trail Connection– West Side of Route #33 Trail Head

Don Moore walked the area and sent out detailed information and pictures for the EAC members to review. He noted that people can already access the trail without the new land being purchased. A trail already exists in the area.

Don just wanted to get the information out as a footnote in order to have additional information. He sent the information to Bryan Cope. Bryan will distribute the information to the other organizations that are interested in the project.

Bob Cornman suggested putting the topic on hold for now. Bruce Rabenold noted that the topic will come up again due to Bushkill Township purchasing land in the area and wanting the trail to continue. The Wildlands Conservancy gave the presentation regarding the requested acquisition, but additional research should have been done first.

Ordinance #357 Tree Protection and Timber Harvest Management and #342 Maintenance and Preservation of Riparian Buffers and Open Space

- Tom Petrucci is working on draft revisions to Ordinance #357 and will submit the information back to the EAC for review. He has been out to view the properties where timber harvesting occurred.
- The personal use criteria in the ordinance need to be revisited and revised.
- **The revisions for the ordinance will be submitted to the EAC for the March 2016 meeting.**

Bruce Rabenold asked if the riparian buffer section of Ordinance #342 is being considered for revisions. He noted the ordinance has strong regulations with a 100 ft. buffer.

NEW BUSINESS

GRANTS

American Water Environmental Grant Program – Applications are due April 1, 2016. The general consensus of the EAC was to focus on the current grants and not pursue the grant offered by American Water.

2016 PROJECT GOALS

- **Regional Planning and Zoning** - Bob Simpson asked what happened to regional zoning. Tom Petrucci explained the following:
 - LVPC and Northampton County Representatives met with the Slate Belt COG and Board of Supervisors. The representatives were Becky Bradley the Executive Director of the LVPC and Lori Sywensky from the Northampton County Department of Economic Development. Lori is no longer working at the NCEDC. Becky and Lori proposed the concept of the development of a Slate Belt Comprehensive Plan. In order to fund the plan a grant application was submitted.
 - The grant did not come through for the LVPC and Northampton County to proceed with a Slate Belt Comprehensive Plan.
 - The Slate Belt COG is now working on the comprehensive plan for the 10 municipalities. A grant through the NCEDC for a Community Block grant (CDBG) will be looked at in March or April of this year.

- If Plainfield, Wind Gap and Pen Argyl move forward with revision of the 2004 Joint Comprehensive plan and joint planning and zoning. The three municipalities may then be eligible for the grant.

The EAC members discussed whether this is a function of the EAC. It was determined that Zoning Ordinance revisions should be worked on at the Planning Commission level.

The three municipalities of Plainfield Township, Pen Argyl and Wind Gap are all interested in proceeding with the development of joint planning and zoning.

SLUDGE DISPOSAL ARTICLE

Chairman Terry Kleintop emailed an article published in the Pocono Record. The article is titled "Settlement protects farms and Delaware River from sludge disposal." The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the Sludge Free Upper Mount Bethel Township community group have prevailed in a legal battle aimed at keeping Class B bio solids off of three farms in Northampton County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Bob Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Bruce Rabenold seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary
Plainfield Township EAC