

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

Meeting March 9, 2016

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 19:06 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Sid Hostetter, Soon Slayman, Bill Stoffel, Rugh Henderson, Megan Detter, John Van Zant, Eva Staley, Steve Darhower, Earl Light and Jane Popko

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: 2/17/2016 minutes approved by Soon Slayman and 2nd by Rugh Henderson

Corrections: None

Correspondence:

Board of Supervisors - good attendance and many productive comments (see minutes from 3/8/2016 for details)

Municipal Authority Minutes - None

Planning Commission Minutes - None

Committee Reports:

Natural Areas Committee:

1) Soon and Rugh prepared a letter to give to current properties with new owners, having a Natural Habitat designation, to determine if they would like to maintain this designation and/or require advice. Soon compiled a list of current properties with the Natural Area designation. She will email form changes to EAC members with changes discussed and then send out. Since the new owner may be unknown, the letter would be directed to the resident. Since designation is assigned to the property, if new owners do not want to continue, a resolution would need to be sent to supervisors for official removal from natural area list.

2) Rugh, Soon, Sylvia and Kevin Weir visited the Colebrook rain garden and Lawn Park wildflower meadow to identify the presence of invasive plants and welcome suggestions for improvement. Shawn has access to volunteers and could coordinate their use with the Natural Area committee as coordinators/overseers.

Water Quality Committee:

1) John discussed the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint - EPA's goal to reduce phosphorous and nitrogen and establish stream buffers to reduce sedimentation was challenged, but reapproved via the Supreme Court. The township will need to be in compliance.

2) Microbeads in the environment from body washes, toothpastes, etc. - waste water treatment does not remove and is currently subject to voluntary removal by manufacturers, but will be banned per Free Water Act of 2018.

3) Over 15 million U.S. households (approximately 15% of Americans) rely on private water wells to provide their drinking water. PA and Alaska are the two states that do not have state regulated private drinking water construction standards. This should be addressed by state level legislation with uniform standards that would provide greater protection of aquifers. Currently well construction standards are only regulated at the local level.

Agricultural and Historical Committee: Bill indicated that Old Mill acquisition is still an ongoing process awaiting resolution and approval via supervisors.

Landscaping Committee: Eva will be starting cleanup process and is always looking for volunteers to assist.

Pipeline Monitoring Committee:

- 1) Jane reported that Lebanon Pipeline Awareness is hosting a Pipeline Public Forum on March 14 at 1830 if anyone is interested. Postcard invitation listed date, time, location and speakers.
- 2) Megan indicated that FERC sent out notification of the EIS for the William's Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline due October 21, 2016. Scoping meetings will then be scheduled for Lebanon County for public comment. This pipeline is currently a year behind schedule for possible approval and operation.

Green Way Path Committee: (temporary committee of EAC)

- 1) John indicated that the last meeting was February 23, 2016 to discuss maintenance, design and mowing. There were six meetings with 9-16 attendees, including two tours of area.
- 2) Residents generally appear not to be in favor of this path/trail concept.
- 3) Storm basins are to be discussed at the next supervisor meeting 4/12/2016.
- 4) John is to finalize the report within the next month after committee review and it will be provided before the next EAC meeting in preparation for discussion. Sid welcomed committee members to attend the next EAC meeting, as well as the supervisor's meetings.

Old Business:

Short Term Plans for EAC - prepare suggestions for next EAC meeting in April.

Committee chairs are requested to provide a membership list and possible meeting dates. EAC members are encouraged to belong to at least one committee.

Long Term Plans for EAC - prepare suggestions for next EAC meeting in April.

Burn Ordinance Discussion - Sid indicated that the EAC should be concerned with environment protection issues related to the burn ordinance. Sid provided the EAC resolution to be sent to the supervisors by Jane. Megan was to provide citations to support detriments to the environment. Rugh Henderson made a motion to accept the resolution. This was 2nd by Steve Darhower.

American Water Grant Projects - send any suggestions to Sid before April 1 to submit to Shawn.

New Business:

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area letter: This letter indicated possible closure to public access (esp. visitor center) due to cost of 1 million/year. Sid suggested that the EAC write letters to the game commission, representatives, governor and others in support of remaining open. Bill also indicated closure of Agricultural offices. Sid was to write a letter to circulate for member input.

Blue Bird Nest Box Project - Sid suggested placing boxes on township properties with EAC monitoring and cleaning. There is a possible site at Mt. Gretna Soldiers Field.

Review of Mowing Schedule for the Greenway Park System - Sid indicated that the schedule is available at the township office for review.

Greenway Park System Maintenance Schedule - EAC might consider filling in gaps not planted by township with natives and look to eradicate invasive plants. Shawn to possibly use interns to update map of native areas via GPS. Rugh to follow up with Shawn.

Good and Welfare: book suggestions for no-mow lawn areas and designing with natives.

Motion to Adjourn: Sid made motion to adjourn at 2018; 2nd by Bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane T. Popko