

# **PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP EAC MEETING MINUTES**

**The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, Pennsylvania**

**EAC Members in attendance were:** EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop, Robert Cornman, Bruce Rabenold, Supervisor Jane Mellert, Don Moore and Robert Simpson. Vice Chairperson Robin Dingle was absent. Mike Kukles from Ott Consulting Engineers was notified that he was not required to attend the meeting.

**Also in attendance:** Township Manager Tom Petrucci and Township resident Erwin Finken III

**EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop opened the meeting at 7:01 pm**

## **MINUTES**

Terry Kleintop asked for a motion to approve the August 17, 2015 minutes.

**Bob Cornman made a motion to approve the August 17, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Don Moore and passed by unanimous vote.**

## **Township Engineer Meeting Attendance**

**Bob Simpson made a motion to have the EAC Chairman notify the Township Engineer to request his attendance at the EAC meeting a month in advance. The motion was seconded by Don Moore and passed by unanimous vote.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company LLC – AECOM Progress Update – Act 14 – Notification General Permit 8 & 11 Application for the 2015 Pennsylvania Project Anomaly Project – Anomaly Digs #16, 24 and 25**

The Transcontinental Gas Pipeline map was distributed and reviewed. There are three sections where digs will be conducted. Setbacks, crossings, stream banks, wetland areas, and access points were discussed.

In August, the landowner near the Getz Road stream access point agreed to amend the easement agreement to allow access to the stream over his property, however, it was determined that the access point would create additional environmental disturbance.

Heather Brewster from AECOM has been working with Tom Petrucci, Terry Kleintop and Michael Naeger from Williams Transcontinental to provide information regarding the digs and address the environmental concerns.

The EAC requested Tom Petrucci to ask the Board of Supervisors to request the equipment list and confirm that any land area disturbed during the digs will be restored. The digs will occur in is Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Companies right-of-way and the company has the right to access the property.

**Little Bushkill Creek Sampling Plan – ELM Group, Inc.** - The Board of Supervisors voted to suspend moving forward with The ELM Group 2015 Sampling Plan. An RFP to hire an Environmental Consultant will be considered by the Supervisors at the September 9, 2015 Board meeting.

**2013 DEP Growing Greener plus Grant** – Terry Kleintop handed all of the paperwork in to Township Manager Tom Petrucci. Tom reviewed the paperwork and submitted the required forms to the PA DEP. The Township is waiting for the grant paperwork to be approved.

An ELM Group bill was received and will be considered for payment approval at the September 9, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting.

**2014 DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant** – The ELM Group was contracted to begin sampling and restoration measures in 2015. The sampling plan was reviewed and it was determined that the work would be suspended during 2015.

The Board of Supervisors voted to suspend the work in July. The 2014 DEP GG Grant is on the Sept 9<sup>th</sup> BOS Agenda. The Board will review the process for continuing the work under the grant. The EAC sent a letter to the Board dated July 16, 2015 outlining a recommendation.

The letter Tom Petrucci sent to Ron Yablonsky gives the Township until January of 2016. The next step may be to compile an RFP for and Environmental Consultant to continue the study. A decision on the environmental firm that will be hired needs to be made prior to March 2016. The study and testing of the stream should resume in May of 2016.

Tom Petrucci will compile the RFP for the EAC to review if the Board approves moving forward. A time line will be developed in order to organize getting the work completed.

**Grand Central Road Bridge** (Township Bridge) – The Bridge is now closed due to holes being found on the surface of the bridge. The Board will need to get a structural engineer. Tom Petrucci took a representative from Northampton County to look at the bridge. The Township applied for a grant last year however the grant was not successful. The Township will submit another application to the Monroe County LSA this year.

**Rasleytown Road Bridge Replacement County Bridge #213 at the Little Bushkill Creek General Permit Plan Review**– Tom Petrucci noted that the review recommendation letter from Mike Kukles at Ott Consulting Engineers was sent to the PA DEP, Northampton County, and Borton-Lawson. The letter was submitted during the 90 day comment period. Ott Consulting Engineers reviewed the response letter from Borton-Lawson the engineering firm hired by Northampton County. Another on-site visit was conducted on September 2, 2015. Participants in the meeting were as follows:

- Tom Kohler, Northampton County Bridge Superintendent

- Stephen Boone and Carl McLaughlin, Borton-Lawson Engineers on behalf of NC
- Mike Kukles, Ott Consulting Engineers on behalf of Plainfield Twp
- Pam Dobbins and Kevin White, DEP Representatives
- Tom Petrucci, Plainfield Township Manager
- Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairman

The DEP wants the flooding of structures to be minimized as much as possible. The design should handle a 25 year storm. The DEP is requiring that Borton-Lawson come back in with a wider bridge span. Mike Kukles will have the opportunity to review the revised plan. The revised plan is due to the DEP by September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Township will have the opportunity to make additional comments.

*After the meeting at Getz Road ,Tom Kohler, Northampton County Bridge Superintendent, Stephen Boone and Carl McLaughlin, Borton-Lawson Engineers, Mike Kukles, Ott Consulting Engineers, Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairman and Tom Petrucci, Township Manager looked at the condition of the Grand Central Road Bridge.*

**Northampton County Farmland Preservation** – Follow up to the letter received from Maria Bentzoni in has not been received. Some of the questions requested in Tom’s letter were not answered in the response. Additional minutes from the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Board were previously provided on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The Township has not heard from Maria since the April 2015 meeting. The concern is that some of the money from municipalities with EIT for Open Space Preservation is supplementing the preservation of land in municipalities that do not have EIT collection.

The Township should have notification soon on whether Northampton County is requesting match money commitments from the municipalities that collect EIT.

If all Plainfield Township property owners that are on the 2015 Farmland Preservation list move forward with preservation, then approximately \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 of the Township EIT funds for Open Space will be utilized.

A discussion was held on other municipalities that have EIT funds and parcels of land that may be preserved.

Northampton County passed a Resolution on August 6, 2015 that all open space preserved lands will be audited. Tom Petrucci noted that land granted the Homestead exclusion prior to 2013 will be reviewed. Notification of all three taxing bodies Northampton County, School District and the Township will also be reviewed.

**MS4 Comprehensive Map** – The GIS mapping work of the MS4 locations was started by Keystone Consulting Engineers. Mike Kukles submitted an outline and quote to prepare the MS-4 Outfall mapping and continued work. The Board of Supervisors will consider the quote at the September 9, 2015 meeting.

Ott Consulting Engineers needs the data from Keystone. The information should have been transferred in January or February of 2015. Jane Mellert noted that the information was delivered to the Township office.

Township information from the engineering and legal firms should be kept at the Township level.

Information on programs to store the data can be researched by the Township Manager and Zoning Officer and submitted to the Board for review.

It was noted that the Township should have a GPS hand held receiver to map the outlets.

**Bob Simpson made a motion for the Board of Supervisors authorize Tom Petrucci to research the options for mapping outlets, tracking subdivisions, development letters, zoning permits, etc. determine what is needed and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Don Moore and passed by unanimous vote. Tom Petrucci is looking at the technology and would like it included in the budget for 2016.**

**Nuisance Ordinance** – The topic of Unsafe Structures/Nuisance Ordinance is on the Planning Commission agenda for review. Tom Petrucci sent out the materials and a list for the commission members to review. Terry had a discussion with Joyce Lambert. Joyce and John Lezoche would like the IBC to be adopted. The problems that are a concern of the office staff are related to tenant/landlord issues.

**Bob Cornman will send Paul Levits an email to ensure that John Lezoche will attend the Planning Commission meeting.**

**Tree Protection and Timber Harvest Management** – Areas delineated for tree harvesting were discussed. Property owners can cut up to 12 trees per acre without triggering a timber harvest plan while abiding by the additional requirements in the plan.

**Greenway Protection** – Bruce Rabenold will schedule a meeting with Tom Petrucci to discuss a draft for greenway protection along the recreation trail.

**Wildlands Conservancy** – Christopher Stroehler is willing to come to an EAC meeting to discuss greenway protection along the recreation trail and an Appalachian Trail connection. Terry Kleintop will try to schedule the **presentation for October**.

#### **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission – Update**

Terry Kleintop noted the Commission approved the request for a (fish survey) on part of the West Branch of the Little Bushkill Creek under the unassessed water initiative. The National Trout Unlimited Eastern Abandoned Mine Program and Pennsylvania Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Initiative was out to the area on July 28, 2015. Terry accompanied the representatives. Trout were found at the mouth of the Little Bushkill. The assessment was successful and additional protection will be placed on the stream. The protection measures will not be put on until next year.

**PPL/Met Ed Vegetation Management** – An update will be requested from Claire Sadler

Claire Sadler will be coordinating a meeting with the utility companies and local officials.

**Northampton County Open Space Funds** – Bryan Cope is having a difficult time spending the Open Space money on environmental sensitive projects. Bryan presented an alternate program for restoring stream banks (watershed restoration projects).

Don Moore knows of one project that had been turned down (environmental sensitive land) the estate was located in Williams Township. Williams Township has dropped the collection of the Earned Income Tax toward open space preservation.

Tom Petrucci will request an update from Bryan Cope.

**Utilization/Updating of the Township server.** – The EAC would like to have the server used to update and preserve information.

## **EVENTS SCHEDULE**

Lehigh Valley Greenways Festival – September 26, 2015 10 am to 5 pm will be held at the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center at 400 Belfast Road, Nazareth, PA

## **GRANTS**

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy Grant round closes on December 31, 2015. Tom Petrucci will look at the possibilities.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Erwin Finken III addressed the EAC regarding drainage and well issues which have occurred since Colony Park started to be developed.

The Township Engineers should review the subdivision plan and the drainage that was developed for the subdivision.

## **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Bob Cornman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 pm. The motion was seconded by Don Moore and passed by unanimous vote.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, EAC Secretary