

**Plainfield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting  
August 1, 2016**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council was held on Monday, August 1, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Those in attendance were:

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

Also in attendance – Joyce Lambert, Supervisor

EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The pledge of allegiance was performed.

**MINUTES**

Chairman Terry Kleintop asked for a motion to approve the June 6, 2016 minutes.

**Motion- June 6, 2016 Minutes** – A motion was made by Bob Simpson and seconded by Bruce Rabenold to approve the June 6, 2016 minutes. The motion carried. **Vote: 5 Yes.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

- **Little Bushkill Watershed Management Plan**
  - The contract with Hanover Engineering Associates in the amount of \$46,763.00 is in place.
  - Jason Smith, PWS Senior Scientist at Hanover Engineering Associates met with Tom Petrucci and Terry Kleintop to go over the sampling plan.
  - Robin Dingle reviewed the sampling plan and provided comments to Jason, Tom and Terry.
  - The stream sampling resumed last week.

**Northampton County Farmland Preservation – County/Municipal Partnership Program**

- **Update on the 2015 applicants** –Greggo #1, #2 and #3, Lock, and Monocacy Heights are still in process.
- **Update on the 2016 applicants** - The Fuentes property on Getz Road recently sold. Due to the sale the property automatically drops out of the program. There is approximately 74 acres. It is not known whether the new owners are aware of the farmland preservation program or are interested in preservation.

- Currently farmland preservation acreage is value is around \$4,500 to \$4,700 per acre.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Cellular Tower Ordinance Regulations along the Appalachian Trail**

- Supporting documentation from the Natural Lands Trust was attached to the agenda. Plainfield Township information for the Appalachian Trail is included on the chart.
- Grant money is available. Grant applications are due by August 31, 2016. The grant money could be utilized to make the Zoning regulations more stringent for siting a cell tower on the Appalachian Trail.

Tom Petrucci noted that the best way for a grant application to take place would be for all of the municipalities within the Slate Belt to apply as part of a joint comprehensive plan. That may not be feasible by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Three of the municipalities (Plainfield, Pen Argyl, and Wind Gap) going together may work. Bob Simpson noted that the Planning Commission would also need to review this information and give a recommendation.

Township Manager Tom Petrucci and Solicitor Backenstoe are currently working on a mini cell tower ordinance. The cell tower companies are taking the stance that they are like a public utility and can site cell towers in public right of ways.

Terry Kleintop noted that there are areas where companies are trying to site wind mills. One area is near Leighton. The large blades create a lot of noise and property owners are testifying to the difficulty of living near the structures.

If a grant is applied for and is successful then the process to move forward with a review to update regulations will include the Planning Commission.

**Motion - Cell tower zoning regulation review – A motion was made by Bob Simpson and seconded by Robin Dingle** to request the Planning Commission review the documentation and zoning regulations regarding cell towers for evaluation. Robin Dingle noted that the regulations should be looked at for the entire Township along with the Appalachian Trail. The view shed from the trail should be included in regulations for siting towers within the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail. Robin noted the following steps:

- Assess the areas where the towers could be placed
- Create a map
- Note the potential impact

**Vote: 5 Yes**

It was noted that alternative energy is a hot button. A letter will be sent to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

### **DCNR, DEP Offering Grants to Plant Trees Along Streams to Improve Water Quality**

- The grant deadline is September 15, 2016.
- The grant match is 50%.
- The trees have to be planted on public property or with an agreement with the landowner. The trees cannot be removed after planting.

- The minimum application is \$50,000. Due to the buffers that can go in the amount of money can go fast.
- The grant match from the Township would be \$25,000. The Environmental Fund could be utilized for the grant match.

DEP's requirements for manure management plans were discussed. Eventually the requirements will be more regulated.

There are landowners within the Township that can be approached. It can be a tough sell to get landowners to give up the 15 to 30 feet along the stream banks.

The DCNR representatives are right here in Jacobsburg Park and could be approached for information on the requirements for the grant. Tom Petrucci will send an email to Christine Dettore or Lorne Possinger at the DCNR.

**Motion - DCNR, DEP Offering Grants to Plant Trees Along Streams to Improve Water Quality (Riparian Forest Buffer Program Grant)** - A motion was made by Robin Dingle and seconded by Bruce Rabenold to request that Tom Petrucci contact the DCNR representatives and inquire about the grant regulations. If the information is favorable to then move ahead with requesting approval from the Board of Supervisors to submit an application and fund the grant match from the Environmental Fund. **Vote 5 Yes**

Tom will let the EAC know if the DCNR says that landowner agreements are necessary for the grant. If the agreements are required then there is not enough time to put the grant together by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Proposed water sampling in Grand Central Woods** - It was noted that prior to having a discussion that the Township wanted to give GCS the courtesy of proper notification should any action take place. Terry Kleintop noted that in the past we went through GCS to access the property when the sampling was done by URS. It has been brought to an EAC member's attention that the testing being done possibly does not meet the required qualifications. The Township is unclear on how to substantiate the alleged claim. It was noted that in the past GCS hired Earth Res to address environmental issues.

A discussion was held on whether the next step should be to have our environmental professional look at the testing documentation and give an opinion to the Township.

Bob Simpson noted that the DEP is the traffic cop for landfills. Terry Kleintop noted that there are reports from the DRBC (Delaware River Basin Commission). An issue appears to exist between the DRBC and DEP. The DRBC has concerns about regulations regarding landfills. Tom will try and locate a copy of the report from the DRBC.

The possibility of pursuing grants for septic issues was discussed. In the past the Northampton County representative did not recommend utilizing Community Development Block Grants due to the regulations and potential for litigation.

**Plainfield Township EIT Collections for Open Space Collection Study**

- Tom Petrucci set up Drop Box and has posted several documents to the site. All of the EAC members have access to the information and can contribute toward the study.

- Bruce Rabenold has looked at various studies. The studies show that Township's do not lose money from preserving land. The property around the preserved properties real estate value increases over time. Township revenue actually increases over a period of time with preserved land. There are specific studies. The Return on Environment study was done by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. The report has 89 pages of case studies. The return is long term not immediate. The studies were focused on revenue.
- Terry Kleintop noted that Moore Township purchased land on two separate occasions in order to preserve the land from development.
- Jane Mellert noted that she would talk to some of the farmer's that preserved land and put on paper how preserving land impacted their operation and/or what it meant to them.
- Terry Kleintop noted he would put a list together of the farms that have the possibility to preserve in the future.

All information that is accumulated for the study should be presented at the September EAC meeting.

**September EAC Meeting Date** - The meeting date for September was discussed. The meeting falls on the first Monday of the month which is Labor Day. It was tentatively determined that the meeting should be moved to Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Regional EAC Meeting**

Terry Kleintop will request the Board of Supervisors approval to hold a Regional EAC meeting in the Plainfield Township Municipal Building. Terry wants to rally people to organize to voice their concern about funding for farmland preservation to Northampton County. Terry also noted that the State mandated an increase on cigarette tax sales. The increase is one dollar (\$1) per pack.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion for Meeting Adjournment** – A motion was made by Bob Simpson and seconded by Robin Dingle to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 pm. **Vote 5-0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary  
Plainfield Township EAC

**1<sup>st</sup> draft – August 1, 2016 jam**