

**Plainfield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting  
February 22, 2017**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 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 – EAC Vice Chairman - Absent
Robin Dingle – EAC Member - Absent	Don Moore – EAC Member
Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member	Robert Simpson – EAC Member
Jane Mellert, EAC Secretary and Member	Tom Petrucci – Plainfield Twp. Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

The pledge of allegiance was performed.

**Also in attendance:**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – February 6, 2017 minutes

**Motion – February 6, 2017 Minutes** - A motion was made by Bruce Rabenold and seconded by Bob Simpson to approve the February 6, 2017 minutes. **Vote: 5 Yes**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Plainfield Township Earned Income Tax Collection for Open Space Study** - Information regarding the study was submitted by the February 22, 2017 EAC meeting deadline. The EAC members reviewed the information presented to date. Tom Petrucci will ask the Board of Supervisors at the February 23, 2017 if they want a public presentation of the study. Tom will present the completed study to the Board after revisions are made and the EAC has reviewed the material.

The Pen Argyl Area School District Business Administrator Walter Schlegel submitted information regarding the past and future class sizes along with budget numbers, number of students that attend Cyber School, and Charter schools.

It was noted that the class size is down due to the down turn in the economy, young adults delaying having children until they are older, and the cost of raising a child. Farmland preservation is also having an effect. Charter schools are affecting the school district due to the district paying \$12,000 for each Charter school student as per the current State law. The Special Education student costs are higher per student with a cost of \$24,000 per year. The school would like to maintain class sizes around 130. Class sizes have gone down but the cost per student has gone up.

A letter from the Pen Argyl Area School District acknowledging support of continuing the earned income tax collections to fund the Municipal Farmland Preservation program will be included in the report to the Board of Supervisors.

**The following reports were reviewed:**

**I. Land Remaining for Potential Preservation**

- Map 1.1 Plainfield Township County of Northampton Ag (Act 149) Easements – Lands Currently Preserved – Don Moore
- Map 1.2 Plainfield Township County of Northampton Ag (Act 149) Farmland that Meets County and State Acreage and Contiguousness Criteria – Don Moore will revise
- Map 1.3 Plainfield Township County of Northampton Ag (Act 149) Easements – Prioritized Parcels to Consider for Preservation – Don Moore
- Study of Open Space Tracts in Plainfield Township – Don Moore
- Summary of Prospective Properties for Farmland Preservation Rev 11 02/06/17 - Don Moore compiled the report. It was decided that the report will be left out of the final packet for presentation.

**II. Tax Ramifications for Plainfield Township**

- Tax Ramifications – Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council – Tom Petrucci

**III. School District Impact and Taxes**

- School District Impact and Real Estate Tax Report – Terry Kleintop – Don Moore compiled the information into a graph for the presentation.

**IV. Land Owner Interviews**

- Farmland Preservation Landowner Interviews – Jane Mellert – 2 interviews were added

**V. Future Utilization of the EIT - Bruce Rabenold**

**VI. Conclusion and Recommendations**

**Commercial/Industrial District**

The EAC discussed uses within Commercial/Industrial districts. It was noted that sewer service is needed near sites for commercial and industrial uses and that storm water can also be an issue.

**Northampton County Farmland Preservation Update**

The Northampton County Farmland Preservation Board met the first Tuesday of the month and reviewed the 2017 ranking list.

**2017 – Northampton County Farmland Preservation** - There were 14 applications. Two applications from Plainfield Township property owners qualified. One of the properties was not currently in the Ag Security Area. Tom Petrucci made contact with Maria Bentzoni regarding this issue. Maria noted that some of the regulations for qualifying were updated.

**2015 – 2016 Northampton County Farmland Preservation**

There are several properties from previous years moving forward that would not have qualified in the past. One of the properties (Fuentes) was sold and transferred to another owner and EAC members were told that it was removed from the list to move forward with preservation.

The 2017 Northampton County Farmland Preservation ranking order list will be discussed further at the March EAC meeting.

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

Tom Petrucci, Terry Kleintop and Robin Dingle have the information on the source tracking. Robin Dingle, Terry Kleintop and Jason Smith, PWS at Hanover Engineering met the week of February 13th in order to review and discuss the information. They will have another meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Tests were conducted on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 after a rain event. (approximately \$11,000 was paid for the data)
- The results from the testing were higher than expected for human contamination and pig waste. Results were high in the Browntown, Benders Church, Heimer, and Delebole Road areas. Results were also high above Able Colony Road near Wendy's and the gas station and at the Wind Gap Wastewater treatment plant. The results for cow waste were high in the Benders Church Road area.

It was noted that some municipalities have Ordinances regulating residents to pump septic tanks.

The question was asked if grants are available to aid residents with upgrading septic systems. Tom noted he asked at Northampton County in the past.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2017 Northampton County Grant Workshop** – Monday February 27, 2017 8 am to 12:30 pm at Northampton County Community College  
Lehigh Valley Greenways, Northampton County DCED,

**2017 Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference** – Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at the Lehigh University STEPS Building

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion - Meeting Adjournment** – A motion was made by Bob Simpson and seconded by Don Moore to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm. **Vote: 5 Yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary  
Plainfield Township EAC