

**Plainfield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting  
February 6, 2017**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, February 6, 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
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 7:01 pm.

The pledge of allegiance was performed.

**Also in attendance:**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – January 24, 2017 minutes

**Motion – January 24, 2017 Minutes** - A motion was made by Bob Cornman and seconded by Bruce Rabenold to approve the January 24, 2017 minutes. **Vote: 6 Yes**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Plainfield Township Earned Income Tax Collection for Open Space Study** - Information regarding the study must be completed by the February 22, 2017 EAC meeting. The EAC members reviewed the information presented to date.

**The following reports were submitted for review:**

**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 Contiguosness 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 will revise
- 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 will compile the information into a graph for the presentation.

## **IV. Land Owner Interviews**

- Farmland Preservation Landowner Interviews – Jane Mellert will revise the report

## **V. Official Map**

- Official Map Report – Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council – Tom Petrucci

## **VI. Expansion of Earned Income Tax Use**

- Expansion of EIT Use – Bruce Rabenold

## **VII. Recommendations and Path Forward**

- Recommendations and Path Forward – Bob Cornman

## **VIII. Summary of the Earned Income Tax Collection for Open Space Preservation Fund**

- Earned Income Tax Open Space Fund Use - Tom Petrucci will compile the information.

Revised reports will be submitted to Tom Petrucci prior to the February 22, 2017 EAC meeting. The reports will be in Word format. Tom will compile the information into a report format. Don Moore will revise the maps and will submit a computer disc to Tom for the maps.

### **Northampton County Farmland Preservation Update**

The Northampton County Farmland Preservation Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month. As of this date, the 2017 applicants to the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Program have not been released to the public.

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

Earned Income Tax for Open Space – On January 11, 2017 the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors voted to approve a Resolution to commit Earned Income Tax funds for the 2017 PA State match program in the amount of \$166,666.67 contingent upon the County agreeing that the full match amount received from the State is allocated to the Township.

A letter dated February 1, 2017 from Maria Bentzoni the Northampton County Farmland Administrator was received by Plainfield Township. The Northampton County Farmland Preservation Board held a special meeting and the Board determined that fund commitments from municipalities that partner with the County to preserve farmland will not be accepted for the State matching program this year.

### **Northampton County Farmland Preservation Application Process**

Several EAC Members voiced that the application period should be changed in order to allow the County Council and County Executive review time for the Northampton County Budget process. Maria Bentzoni has been approached to request the change. Maria wants the application process to remain the same due to scheduling of administrative duties for the program and because the process takes into account farmers busy schedules. At the January 26, 2017 Board meeting the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors directed Township Manager Tom Petrucci to compose a letter to Northampton County Farmland Preservation to address this issue. The draft letter will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors at the February 8, 2017 Board meeting.

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

Jason Smith, PWS at Hanover Engineering, Robin Dingle, Tom Petrucci, and Terry Kleintop will hold another meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> in order to continue the review of the test results, and work on the study information. A property owner will be approached regarding the stream test results near their property.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Healthy Farms, Healthy Animals, Healthy Water: Planning for Sustainability 2 Day Workshop -** February 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Terry Kleintop would like the flyers to go out to the property owners. Jane Mellert noted that she had the flyer posted on the Plainfield Township website.

**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 Cornman and seconded by Bob Simpson to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 pm. **Vote: 6 Yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary  
Plainfield Township EAC