

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:00 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

**ROLL CALL: Members:** Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Laura Ray, Hazem Hijazi, Ted Beardsley, Allan Johnson; **Absent:** Germanoski & Sarah Stanlick. **Associate Members:** Thomas Carocci, Glenn Kaye & David Jauregui; **Absent:** Michael Boyle. **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos. **Staff:** Diane Palik. **Jr. Council EAC Member:** Brynn Bambu (7:11 p.m.) & Ben Szydlow; **Absent:** Katie French. Mrs. Yerger said Cindy Oatis is present. She is interested in joining the EAC.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. REORGANIZATION**

**1. NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN**

**MOTION BY:** Allan Johnson moved to nominate Sandra Yerger as Chairman for 2018.

**SECOND BY:** Hazem Hijazi

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dru Germanoski)

**2. NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**MOTION BY:** Allan Johnson moved to nominate Hazem Hijazi as Vice Chairman for 2018.

**SECOND BY:** Sandra Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dru Germanoski)

**3. NOMINATION OF SECRETARY**

**MOTION BY:** Hazem Hijazi moved to nominate Laura Ray as Secretary for 2018.

**SECOND BY:** Ted Beardsley

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dru Germanoski)

**4. DESIGNATION OF EAC MEETING – TIME, DATE & PLACE**

**MOTION BY:** Hazem Hijazi moved to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, at Town Hall, starting at 7:00 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Ted Beardsley

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dru Germanoski)

**5. NOMINATION OF MEMBER POSITION**

Mrs. Yerger said we have an opening for a member position. The by-laws have 7 voting members and 5 non-voting members. She asked if anyone would like to move up to a member position. Ms. Ray will be moving to a non-voting position as she has classes right now. Ms. Palik said we need someone who attends most of the meetings as a quorum is needed for each meeting. This will be tabled until everyone thinks about it.

**B. GOALS & PROJECTS FOR 2018**

- Promotion of Native Plant Garden
- Promotion of the Latex-Based Paint Event
- Native Plant Sale – Will coordinate with Edge of the Woods
- Educational programs with the Saucon Creek Watershed Association including the Watershed Steward Program. Mrs. Yerger asked about a Rain Barrel Workshop. Mr. Terry Boos said Saucon Creek Watershed Association will probably schedule one at Seidersville Hall and will keep the EAC informed of a date.
- Work with Township staff to locate additional small streams and tributaries and where they would be located – Mr. Johnson would like to help with this.
- Promote more frequent County recycling of hazardous waste collection on our website
- Adopt-a-Road program in the spring and fall

- Five Year Goal – establish environmental educational programs at Township Parks and/or school district. We will start this with our MS4 with the high school.

Mr. Hijazi would like to see more recycling events at the Township. Ms. Oatis said right now there is a bill that is waiting to be voted on that will set up county locations for recycling, which is truly the way it should be done. It's not cost-effective for the municipalities to hold these events. Mrs. Yerger said people don't know what to do with their TV's and other recyclable items. Ms. Oatis said the only other option, to host any of these without financial assistance from the DEP is very costly and you could have programs through Waste Management which are curbside collections. There's no way around it; and we're going to be paying either way.

Mr. Johnson said he'd like to see the EAC do something with the Savitske-Townsend property between Polk Valley Road and Reservoir Road. He would like to see that it be mowed once a year and see if we could find a farmer to farm it. He would be willing to work on that. Mrs. Yerger said we have to be careful with what we do on it as far as the farming as it was purchased with open space money as it is in the Act 319 so it can't generate money. We have to make sure the County is on board with the Act 319. She also feels it must be mowed once a year and/or there's a farmer up the road who would do it, but there's liability, so we'll pursue that.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Johnson moved to recommend to Council the goals and projects for 2018.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Hijazi

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dry Germanoski)

Mr. Hijazi asked Ms. Oatis to tell the EAC a little about herself. Ms. Oatis said she's worked in municipal law business, corporate, environmental, moved to PA in 1990 and started a family. Right now she's a municipal consultant and does state, federal environmental grants; and does a lot of Act 101 municipal compliance that comes with a series of grants for municipalities. They are currently working on a recycling center in Palmer Township. She does a lot of education, she works in the Easton School District now trying to get their environmental and recycling programs up and running. She's always had an interest in this committee and when she speaks to other municipalities, she always uses this committee as an example.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to recommend to Council that Cindy Oatis be nominated as an Associate Member of the EAC, filling the vacant seat of Jordan Davco with her term ending December 31, 2018,

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dru Germanoski)

Mrs. Yerger said every year there is an EAC conference and Lower Saucon is going to be featured. Our riparian buffer ordinance, which is part of our natural resource overlay zone has been pulled out as exemplary and they felt it was important and should be shared with other EAC's throughout the state of PA. If you would be interested in attending, we have funding, so let Ms. Palik know.

**C. MS4 UPDATES**

Mrs. Yerger said the biggest update is that Hanover and Chris Garges are nearing completion of the public map tool. The public will be able to look up a property, if they're in the urbanized area, where the closest storm drain is, etc. There will also ultimately be a public reporting tool. All the storm sheds, inlets, outfalls, etc. have been mapped and will be included on the map. Mr. Germanoski and Ms. Stanlick are working on a project for the EAC for the MS4 compliance.

**D. DISCUSSION ON ADELPHIA GATEWAY PROJECT**

Mrs. Yerger said Council has asked us to review the material on Adelphia. She asked if there were any issues or concerns we should report to Council. Mr. Johnson said the pipeline flows through a lot of our township. It's already in the ground and he doesn't see any environmental issues. They are not going to build anything in our township. They are going to do it in Bucks County. Mrs. Yerger said she didn't see any new laterals coming off of it and nothing like that proposed. It's basically reusing. They are converting from oil to natural gas. They are not increasing the size.

Mr. Hijazi said it's in the ground, so he doesn't think there is intrusive impact on it and it's just a change of fuel. Mrs. Yerger said then it changes jurisdiction and it goes under FERC's jurisdiction as its gas.

Mr. Johnson said the only thing that bothers him is that it's been in the ground for 42 years old and they want to increase the pressure. Mr. Carocci said it's already in the ground, and hopefully FERC will be on top of it and replace some valves. They don't appear to do any work in the Township as far as he knows.

Mrs. Yerger said there's a letter from Buchanan Ingersoll and the Council posed the questions and these are the responses given back to us. There are no laterals, no new piping in our Township, and it's already in the ground.

Mr. Johnson said where are they going to interconnect into another pipeline to get the gas up north. They don't have an interconnection in northern Northampton County.

Mr. Boos said there's a mention of blow off valves, is that just a pressure release valve and are they capturing or releasing in some manner or are they just "here's the pollution".

Mr. Johnson said in the cities if the gas leaks you can smell it as they add something to the gas. He wonders if that is added by the distribution company once it gets to the city or do they add that so the flow through the pipeline smells if it starts to leak. If there would be a leak in the pipeline around here, you'd never know it if that chemical isn't in the gas.

Mr. Hijazi said the other question is our engineers are probably looking at this, is the construction of the material of the pipeline, would they use the same material if they are going from oil to gas? The mechanism of pushing oil versus gas is going to be liquidized, so he's thinking more from the engineering perspective. Would there be a risk? He would ask from the safety and operational perspective, would the change have an impact and what are they doing to modify or handle that impact.

Mr. Johnson said we should ask if the gas is going to be at a higher pressure than the oil was. Mr. Hijazi said the change in the operation, would it change the risk and impacts in the areas where that line is going through.

Mr. Jauregui said there's certainly some conversion that needs to be done, the mechanism of going from gas to oil is certainly different, but does it impose any higher probability of risk. He wouldn't think so. He's just looking what is pertinent to us in other than they are using the old piping.

Mrs. Yerger said for something like this, they are out there to make money and if this is all faulty piping, she doesn't think they would be using it. Mr. Jauregui said he doesn't think they would take the risk. He's sure there are regulations at the state level where there are checks they have to run before they go out and convert it.

Mrs. Yerger said she will bring these questions up at the Council meeting next week. The questions the EAC has:

- In the cities if the gas leaks you can smell it as they add something to the gas. Is this added by the distribution company once it gets to the city or do they add that so the flow through the pipeline smells if it starts to leak. If there would be a leak in the pipeline around here, you'd never know it if that chemical isn't in the gas.
- Regarding the construction of the material of the pipeline, would they use the same material if they are going from oil to gas? From the safety and operational perspective, would the change have an impact and what are they doing to modify or handle that impact.

- Where are they going to interconnect into another pipeline to get the gas up north. They don't have an interconnection in northern Northampton County.

Mr. Kaye said how do you know there is a leak as opposed to putting in the odorant that helps detect the leak. We really want to know if there's a leak. He doesn't know if there's additional mechanisms built into the blowout to help determine if there's a small leak.

**E. DRBC-MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION CAMPAIGN**

Mrs. Yerger said we have been asked to look at this DRBC resolution municipal campaign. This is from the Delaware River Basin Commission. They are asking for us to approach our Council to pass a resolution in PA. The resolution wants the Township to call upon the DRBC to enact a complete and permanent ban on natural gas development and hydraulic fracturing and all related activities from the water withdrawal for drilling and fracking operations throughout the basin. They are asking us to recommend to our Council to enact this resolution.

Mrs. Yerger said her organization works a lot with the Delaware River. The big concern is you have 3 million people depending on the Delaware River for their drinking water. That's what they are really concerned about.

Mr. Hijazi said fracking is with the development for shale, oil and gas, has the developer come close to the Delaware River Basin as he knows most of it is in western PA and some in the NE. Mrs. Yerger said the concern is they are going to get close to those parts, and that's why they want it banned.

Mr. Kaye said it's looking for a permanent ban in basin. Mrs. Yerger said yes, they are worried about the basin.

Mr. Hijazi said he likes this, but he thinks if there was money to be made with the oil companies in that area, they would have been there already. If they haven't gone there, that means there isn't much in there for them.

Mr. Jauregui said is this Township empowered to do anything about it? Mrs. Yerger said it's pretty much symbolic and it's the will of the people of the state. Mr. Jauregui said are the other neighboring townships doing the same? Mrs. Yerger said she didn't know. They are trying to reach out. There's genuine concern that they are going to be encroaching. As the technology improves, they are afraid of what is going to happen in the future. They are also concerned about the amount of water they are pulling out of the ground which is just enormous.

Ms. Oatis said she thinks it's a very dangerous practice with a lot of potential problems. She thinks it's hard to recommend a resolution without the Committee doing a little bit of homework. There's a lot of pushback, politically on it. These companies go in to farmers and buy the use of their land and they weave it, leave it in bad shape and walk away. Some of the farmers really need that subsidiary. If the Committee wanted to take it on, we'd have to do some of the reading that supports the resolution.

Mr. Hijazi said he doesn't foresee this as an issue here. Mr. Kaye said if they aren't going to do it anyway, they probably won't care and it will still support the cause. Mr. Hijazi said are we in support of protecting our resources against potential fracking or are we open to meet that issue when it happens and whatever comes with it. He's more inclined to say he has enough information to form an opinion that fracking may not be best thing happening and he would like fracking to stay away from the Delaware River Basin. Mrs. Yerger said they are not talking about banning fracking; it's just in the watershed they are trying to protect.

Mr. Jauregui said to put a permanent ban, the issue is the fracking and the mess that they've done in the past. It's more symbolic than anything and he'd like to revise the wording. Mr. Carocci said he agrees with the language. Mrs. Yerger said we are a recommending body, so we would not be doing the resolution. We don't make the ultimate decision. Are we comfortable in having Council pursuing this. Mr. Kaye said from our standpoint as an EAC, he doesn't see any reason we should have any reservations in supporting this document and recommending that Council support it. Mrs. Yerger said it's for a very specific geographic area.

Mr. Boos said the DRBC bans fracking, but the caveat was there was no restriction on importing fracking waste water into the water for treatment or disposal, so he thinks the one line in the resolution is the major sticking point.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Johnson moved to recommend that we ask Council to consider the DRBC Municipal Resolution.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. Ray

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dru Germanoski)

**III. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**A. PROPERTY UPDATES**

**1. DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY NO. 2017-8**

Mr. Beardsley said he spoke to the owner and this property has some history with the Township, which he doesn't understand completely at this point. The owner wants to sell it; it's not a conservation easement. He had a subdivision approval for four lots and he was going to donate 10 acres to the Township for open space. Mrs. Yerger said that's part of our ordinance. Mr. Beardsley said we need more information about it. If we are not interested in considering it for a purchase, then we need to tell him that. Mrs. Yerger said she will convey this to Council; unless we want to make a recommendation that we don't want to recommend it for an outright purchase. Mr. Garges may have some input on this also as there are some challenges with the property. Mr. Beardsley said he got a subdivision approval, but the bottom fell out of the market and he's just trying to recoup his money. Mrs. Yerger said they want full market value for the land. Mr. Beardsley said it's possible this could be a bargain sale as he did mention he borrowed money from relatives and he wants to pay them back. Mrs. Yerger said we will just leave it to Council that it's a purchase and not an easement as with Mr. Beardsley's conversation with the landowner and maybe we can have Linc give him a call. Mr. Beardsley said before a recommendation is made, he'd like to talk to the Open Space Subcommittee and bring it back next month.

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS – None**

**V. UPDATES/REPORTS**

**A. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT – SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2018 – 8:30 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.**

Mrs. Yerger said this event is in May and it's very heavily attending.

**B. TERRY BOOS REPORT – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – No report**

**VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF December 12, 2017 MINUTES**

Mr. Johnson had one change on page 2.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Beardsley moved for approval of the December 12, 2017 minutes, with the correction.

**SECOND BY:** Ms. Ray

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dru Germanoski)

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mrs. Yerger said the Pocono Rehab Center is looking for funding and they take in wildlife. She doesn't know if we want to consider them for a donation. Ms. Ray will put it on the EAC website.

**Environmental Advisory Council  
January 9, 2018**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 8:11p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Sarah Stanlick & Dru Germanoski)

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Sandra Yerger, Chair