

I. OPENING

- A. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.
- B. **ROLL CALL: Members:** Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Tom Maxfield, Vice Chairman, Allan Johnson, Ted Beardsley; & Hazem Hijazi. Absent: Laura Ray & Dru Germanoski. **Associate Members:** Thomas Carocci, Glenn Kaye & Sarah Stanlick. Absent: Michael Boyle & David Jauregui; **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos **Jr. Council Member:** Absent: Kyle Bambu.
- C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE

A. **PROPERTY UPDATES**

1. **UPDATE ON PROPERTY NO. 2015-1**

Mr. Beardsley said he talked to the owner and the owner would be interested in talking to the EAC about an outright sale rather than a conservation easement. When the Open Space Committee evaluated it, they thought when it gets appraised, there won't be any value for the conservation easement. They think the property is worth preserving as it's part of the headwaters of the Cooks Creek. The acreage is 6.7 acres. It has road frontage and goes up to steep slopes. When they scored it, it scored high enough for a conservation easement, but that doesn't make a whole lot of sense because there would be little value to a conservation easement. Mr. Beardsley called to see if the owner would be willing to sell it and he said yes. Mr. Beardsley would suggest the first step is how much the owner paid for it before we spend money for an appraisal. Mr. Beardsley did explain there was a tax advantage for selling it for less than the appraised value. Mr. Beardsley will continue to talk to him. Mrs. Yerger said Mr. Beardsley should ask what he wants for it or if he wants a bargain sale, and bring it back to the EAC.

2. Mrs. Yerger said there were some emails about a property that borders Springtown and Lower Saucon Township. It was scored on our old system, so we're going to need the Open Space Sub-Committee to score it again, but with the current scoring sheet so it's consistent with the rest of the properties. Mr. Beardsley said he will get ahold of the property owner.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. **GIRL SCOUT PROJECT**

Ms. Bailey Smith was present. She said for her Silver Award, she'd like to do bat houses in Polk Valley Park. What made her think about this was in the summer, they bring their dogs to the dog park, and the bugs are really bad. They found bug spray is not enough, and they end up with lots of bug bites. Bats are environmentally healthy so you don't have to go around spraying pesticides. She was thinking building about 10 houses, but that may be subject to change. They are 20' apart and are on 15' poles, so the bats won't be bothered by other animals. Each house is 1.7'x2' and holds a maximum of 80 bats which she got off of the Game Commission site. They should not bother people during the daytime. They consume up to 500 insects per hour and are active March through November. She could also spread the houses throughout the park, but has to scope out the park first. The poles will be made out of wood. Mr. Maxfield asked Ms. Smith how the poles would be put up. Ms. Smith said her father is a contractor. Mrs. Yerger said Ms. Smith will have to get in contact with Public Works so she knows where to position the poles. Ms. Smith would like to seek approval from the EAC. Mr. Maxfield said he will take this to Council tomorrow evening for their approval.

**Environmental Advisory Council
April 14, 2015**

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved that the EAC recommends to Council, approval of the Girl Scout project proposed by Bailey Smith for her Silver Award Badge whereby she would build bat houses for Polk Valley Park to help with insect control.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Laura Ray and Dru Germanoski)

B. BOY SCOUT PROJECT

Mr. August Koehler was present and said he's interested in refurbishing the signs (about six or seven) at the Heller Homestead Park Nature Loop Trail as they are pretty shabby. He said the signs are in disrepair and have moisture obscuring the windows. One of the signs even has a plant growing in it. The enclosures will be dismantled and cleaned, replacing parts as necessary and they will be reconstructed, taking care to better seal them against the elements and moisture damage. The project will take from 30 to 90 days to complete and should be under \$500.00. This will improve the nature trail and the signs will be visible and easier to read for visitors. Mr. Maxfield said he will take this recommendation to the Council meeting tomorrow evening.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved that the EAC recommends to Council, approval of the Boy Scout project proposed by August Koehler for his Eagle Scout Service project whereby he would refurbish and improve the signs on the Heller Homestead Park Nature Loop Trail.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Kaye
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Laura Ray and Dru Germanoski)

C. DISCUSSION WITH KEN ZINIS, NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COORDINATOR ON RECYCLING INITIATIVES AND ELECTRONICS

Mr. Ken Zinis was present. He reviewed the recycling events that were going to be happening in April and May, which are under the "Updates/Reports" section of the minutes. He said there will be a Household Hazardous Waste Event on May 30th and October 10th at the Northampton Community College from 8:30am to 2:00pm. He said he's starting on getting Prescription Drop Boxes at different Police Departments. He would like to make it county-wide. Mr. Maxfield told him we have a Drug Take Back Box in the Police Department lobby, and Mr. Zinis said that was fantastic and he'll check it out when he leaves. Mrs. Yerger said we can post these events on the website.

IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS

A. ANDERSON/MARTIN LOT LINE CHANGE – 3331 GREEN ACRES DRIVE

The EAC had no comments as there were no environmental issues.

B. ADAMS OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SITE PLAN & CONDITIONAL USE – 3667 ROUTE 378

Mr. Maxfield said they want to put up a digital billboard. It is sandwiched in between Route 378 and Route 78. There's a house in the middle and it's proposed to be a V-shaped billboard which is visible from Route 78. It's going to be about 70' high. There are two uses on one property. It is much higher than anything our current ordinance allows. They may need a variance on the size of the billboard. Mr. Hijazi said as an EAC, they should be against the light pollution and this goes against the rural characteristics of the Township.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved to recommend to Council that the EAC does not approve the Adams Outdoor Billboard because of the light pollution and this goes against the rural and scenic quality of the Township.
- SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger
- ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Absent: Laura Ray and Dru Germanoski)

V. **UPDATES/REPORTS**

- A. **ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP – APRIL 18TH @ 9:00 AM** - Mr. Boos will pick up the equipment for the clean-up. Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Johnson, and Ms. Stanlick said they could help and meet at the Old Mill Bridge at 9:00 am.
- B. **E-CYCLING EVENT AT STEEL STACKS – APRIL 18TH – 9AM – 1PM** - Mr. Zinis reported on this.
- C. **NORTHAMPTON COUNTY EARTH & HEALTH DAY – APRIL 22ND** - Mr. Zinis reported on this. It's from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.
- D. **SHREDDING EVENT AT TOWNSHIP – MAY 9TH – 10AM – NOON** - Mrs. Yerger said there's a brochure in your packet on the shredding event.

Mr. Hijazi left the meeting. The time was 8:07 pm.

VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2015 MINUTES**

Mr. Johnson said page 1, line 15, move the sentence “the property splits Lower Saucon and Springfield, so it's almost 15 acres” to the second paragraph on line 23, after the word “before”.

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for approval of the March 10, 2015 minutes, with correction.

SECOND BY: Mr. Beardsley

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Absent: Dru Germanoski, Laura Ray and Haz Hijazi)

VII. **OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS** – Ms. Stanlick said there is a South Side sale which happens through Lehigh University. The dates haven't been announced yet. They collect everything, and don't turn anything away except hazardous materials. You can drop things off at the Windish Hall or give it to her at the next EAC meeting.

VIII. **TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT** - Mr. Boos said the renovation of Water Street Park has begun. The Saucon Valley Farmers Market is set to begin their 10th anniversary season at the Hellertown Library on May 3rd through the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Yesterday he took a walk on the Tumminello property to look at the plantings they put in two years ago. There were 16 plants that have died out of about 500, so that's only a 4% mortality rate, which is exceptional. In the rain garden areas, the plants are beginning to show their leaves.

IX. **NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – Mr. Carocci asked if there was any progress on the condos at Silver Creek. Mr. Maxfield said there's a joint Planning Commission meeting and that is one of the topics as Hellertown is pretty concerned about it. He'll find out the date and see if it's here or in Hellertown.

X. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY: Mr. Maxfield moved for adjournment. The time was 8:14 P.M.

SECOND BY: Mr. Beardsley

ROLL CALL: 4-0 (Absent: Dru Germanoski, Laura Ray and Haz Hijazi)