

**I. OPENING**

- A. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 7:03 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, Laura Ray, Dru Germanoski & Hazem Hijazi. **Associate Members:** Michael Boyle, David Jauregui & Sarah Stanlick (arrived at 7:07 pm). Not present: Thomas Carocci & Glenn Kaye. **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos. **Jr. Council Member:** Kyle Bambu.
- C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mrs. Yerger said the EAC Open Space Sub-Committee met in Executive Session before the meeting this evening to discuss the properties that are listed under the Committee property updates. No decisions were made.

**II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

A. **PROPERTY UPDATES**

1. **RICH MARSON – 2383 WASSERGASS ROAD – ACTION TAKEN FROM COUNCIL ON SURVEY WORK**

Mr. Beardsley said he spoke to Rich Marson yesterday and no one has contacted him about a survey and nobody has contacted him about the baseline study. The baseline study was apparently ordered back on April 7<sup>th</sup> from Wildlands. He would think they should have been in contact with him by now and he's sure they have to go out and look at the property. The survey was more recent. It was approved at the last Council meeting, so maybe that's a little premature.

2. **DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY NO. 2015-1**

Mr. Beardsley said the last thing on this property was that they might be interested in a sale rather than a conservation easement and they don't know whether Council is interested in doing that or not. Mrs. Yerger said we're going to do a PNDI search on that property due to some antidotal records. A PNDI search is a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index and that tells us whether there are endangered, threatened plants, animals on that property and pending a result of that, we can move forward.

3. **DISCUSSION ON PROPERTY NO. 2015-2**

Mr. Beardsley said we're going to re-evaluate this property tomorrow evening.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

A. **NATIVE PLANT GARDEN UPDATE FROM ELY BROWN**

Ely Brown, Boy Scout, said they are planning to do a work session this Saturday in the garden and they are expecting to have three or four scouts. They are planning on doing the first weeding for spring, spreading the mulch, cleaning out the pond and hooking up the solar pump. Mrs. Yerger said they look forward to seeing the garden.

B. **DISCUSSION ON NATIVE PLANT SALE DATE**

Mrs. Yerger asked the EAC if they wanted to do a Native Plant Sale. Terry Boos said if they plan to do a sale, he will schedule the EAC at the Farmer's Market and will get them a booth. The EAC decided to do the plant sale on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Yerger will get in touch with Mark Brownlee from ArcheWild in Quakertown and see if he'd be interested in supplying the EAC with plants and trees. Any money we make mark them up about a \$1.00 or so and give that to the Saucon Creek Watershed Association. Volunteers are welcome to work at the Farmer's Market that day.

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS - None**

**V. UPDATES/REPORTS**

**A. HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT – MAY 30, 2015 – 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM**

Mrs. Yerger said this is run by Northampton County. Kyle Bambu asked how we are going to advertise this so people know about it. Ms. Palik said it's on the Township website. The EAC said it should also go in the Township newsletter. Mrs. Yerger said there's a flyer in your packet, please hand it out to your friends, family, co-workers, and at school.

**B. ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PICNIC – JUNE 8, 2015 – 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM**

Mrs. Yerger said please join us if you can. We get to meet volunteers from other boards. Let Diane know if you plan on attending.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2015 MINUTES**

Mr. Beardsley said on page 2, line 22, at the end of the word sense, add "because there would be little value to a conservation easement".

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved for approval of the April 14, 2015 minutes, with correction.  
Mr. Maxfield said in the minutes we talked about the Girl Scout doing the bat houses and at Council, they said the placement of the bat houses should be by the professionals, so the Girl Scout will be contacting Mrs. Yerger. Mrs. Yerger said that's fine.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson

**ROLL CALL:** 7-0

**VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Mr. Johnson asked what was the latest with the PennEast Pipeline? Mrs. Yerger said both Springfield and Durham came out with resolutions to oppose the pipeline. At the last count, here are 27 municipalities on the PA side that have opposed the pipeline plus numerous municipalities over on the NJ side opposing it also. It came up at a Lower Delaware Conservation meeting and there were some grave concerns with the pipeline going under the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers and the safety measures that will be taken if it does go under. The biggest concern at this point is not this pipeline, but the one that's going to be delivering the propane that's coming in along the southern route. They haven't piped propane that distance or that length. It's coming from Berks, Chester Counties. Mr. Maxfield said our attorney, Charles Elliott has been very active and involved in this whole thing. There was an initial report from FERC that Mr. Elliott felt did not address certain items and he was looking for direction and to get the okay from Council to move forward. One of the first things FERC did not mention was LST's opposition to this company who was hired and was a conflict of interest. Mr. Elliott is going to send another letter. Mrs. Yerger said the last count, there was a minimum of 57 properties being affected. They are targeting these properties as they don't have houses on them and they can run right down the middle of them. Mr. Maxfield said one of the things Mr. Elliott found out and was the most impressive is that with the size of this line and how much gas it's going to carry, it carries more gas than can be used by the entire state of NJ. The assumption is they are going to be selling it to someone else and it will be exported. Mrs. Yerger said they were told that they are breaking even or maybe even losing a little bit selling to the domestic market, so the only way their long-term investment is going to pay out is for them to ship it out because they get a lot more money than they'd get here. NJ has twelve pipelines coming in the next couple of years. They have a lot of concern. Lisa Boscola, our State Senator is for the pipeline because of the jobs in PA. Ms. Ray said awhile back Mr. Maxfield has a list of questions for the pipeline people and one of them had to do with eminent domain, and how that can be applicable if it's not to the public's benefit, did that ever get talked about? Mr. Maxfield said they said they did not want to use eminent domain, but they were able to do it and they were encouraging people to talk to them. He would guess they are going to use it. Mrs. Yerger said LST has a lot of resource protection laws; do they have to honor this? She never got a straight answer. Mr. Maxfield said they said they would try to honor the local laws wherever possible, but they were not obligated to.

**VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – REPORT** – Mr. Boos said the Water Street configuration is continuing to take place. The contract expires at the end of July. The Saucon Valley

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Farmers Market opened May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hellertown Area Library site and had a very good opening day. With the new site location, residents and customers were able to find it. Vendors and customers seem to enjoy this site and some have expressed an interest they like this site better than Water Street Park, although there's no chance that's going to happen.

- IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – Mrs. Yerger said there are some programs available from Penn State. She has the flyers if anyone wants to take a look.

Mr. Johnson said he saw in the paper the Federal Government is coming around and inspecting Townships to see if they are complying with the NPDES MS4 regulation requirements. A couple of months ago something came through the EAC and we committed to working with some educational programs and according to the paper, one of the big things according to the inspector was there wasn't enough educational outreach things out there. Mrs. Yerger said we put up information on rain gardens, stream buffers, and stormwater management. That's all MS4 education. We need to put this in the newsletter and tell the residents this is where you can find this information on our website. Mrs. Yerger downloaded a lot of information and gave it to Diane and if you want any of the stormwater stuff, what a property owner can do, it's on the Township and the EAC website. Mr. Johnson said he just wanted to know if the Township knew what was going on. Mrs. Yerger said we have to comply with the law.

Mr. Maxfield said at the Polk Valley Dog Park, sometimes it has to be closed because of wet conditions or maintenance, and some people got mad and ripped the fence down and went in, so we had to rebuild the fence. They also stole the sign that says Open/Closed. We think it was outsiders. We've had damage at other parks also. No one knows how much money is just spent on trying to keep the Township running. Ms. Palik said there's a Facebook page now for the Polk Valley Dog Park which gives updates and information about the dog park. Mr. Maxfield said if you see something on going out there at the dog park, you can post it on the Facebook page.

- X. PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

- XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved for adjournment. The time was 7:51 P.M.  
**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson  
**ROLL CALL:** 7-0

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Sandra Yerger, Chair