

**I. OPENING**

A. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 7:03 P.M. at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

B. **ROLL CALL:**

**Members:** Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Tom Maxfield, Vice Chair; Allan Johnson; Ted Beardsley, Laura Ray, Hazem Hijazi, Dru Germanoski (arrived at 7:15 PM). **Associate Members:** Sarah Stanlick. Absent: Thomas Carocci, Glenn Kaye and Michael Boyle. **Jr. Council Member:** Kyle Bambu. **Hellertown Liaison:** Absent: Terry Boos.

C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

D. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** - None

**II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

A. **PROPERTY UPDATES** – Mr. Beardsley said he has an appointment with Rich Marson.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

A. **UPDATE ON NATIVE PLANT GARDEN WITH ELY BROWN, STAR SCOUT, FRESHMAN AT SAUCON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

Ely Brown said they finished the weeding. They laid the ground cloth and spread woodchips. Two adults and five scouts helped with that. They still have two 10' sections that need woodchips, so they are waiting for woodchips from Public Works. The solar panels need to be put away for the winter. Mrs. Yerger said the EAC made a recommendation to Council to prepare a resolution thanking Boy Scout Troop 416 for their work in the garden.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved that the EAC recommends to Council that a resolution be prepared for Boy Scout Troop 416 thanking them for their hard work and a job well done in the Township Native Plant Garden at Town Hall.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley

**ROLL CALL:** 6-0 (Absent: Dru Germanoski)

B. **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED PENNEAST PIPELINE**

Mr. Maxfield said it was suggested at a Council meeting that the EAC look at this issue and make a recommendation. He's hoping the recommendation will be for Council to hold a meeting with PennEast Pipeline to get some questions answered. He presented a map prepared by the pipeline. We need to look out for the Redington Historic District. The goal is to encourage PennEast to take a less invasive route and get the best route we can get for LST. A smart way to go would be to attempt to work with them as best as we can. He read if you try to attempt to stop them, they do mass condemnations. They are going through valuable farmlands and forests in Williams Township. He wants to find out if the map they were given is reliable.

Mr. Hijazi said why not have a public meeting with PennEast? He's not sure if we can change their minds but we can voice the concerns from our community and try to minimize any environmental impacts. Mr. Maxfield said as far as a public meeting, from what he read, the company now seems to be shying away from public meetings. It was his hope to sit down even if it's a private meeting with them and get it from the horse's mouth. Mr. Hijazi said once it's constructed, there are other questions about the maintenance, inspection, etc. Mr. Dru Germanoski arrived. The time was 7:15 PM.

Mr. Johnson said he did a lot of research and went to two meetings. He put together a packet for the EAC with lots of good information. From the research he did, it appears that LST has a lot of room to negotiate, but they have to learn about what authorities and powers they have before they negotiate so they know what they can do.

Mr. Lawrence Opthof, 2700 Redington Road, asked which side of Redington Road the pipeline was going to run? Mr. Johnson said the east side. Mr. Opthof asked how close to the road is it running and when the construction will start? Mrs. Yerger said it would probably start in 2017, as that's the proposed timeline.

Ms. Kathy McGovern, 4260 Lower Saucon Road, which is the old Pichel farm, said this pipeline will go through her entire property, all 88 acres of it from the beginning to the end. Her property value is going to be useless. Ms. McGovern had multiple questions that she needed answered. Mr. Maxfield said if we can get a meeting with the Pipeline representatives, we can find out a lot more what we need to do. We already have a list of property owners that the pipeline is designated to go through. We will recommend everyone be contacted. Mr. Maxfield said we are a recipient of a pipeline going through our township and we don't have a say if we are against drilling Marcellus gas or not, we become the transmission line for this pipeline. We need to be informed and get as much accurate and true information that we can.

Mr. Germanoski asked what recourse we have, as an EAC. The simple answer is to follow the right-of-way of the highway and run it down the side of Route 33, hit the old railroad along the river, take it over to NJ where the benefits are going to happen. It's going over steep slopes and once these things go through the forested areas, you can't have trees there anymore. We should try to do further research and see what options we have.

Mr. Maxfield said he'd like to get together and talk with them and find out exactly what they are planning. By now, that map has appeared in several places and he thinks that map is it. Mr. Germanoski said we have a timbering ordinance in this Township and we ought to be able to apply that in some way when they cut down trees.

Mr. Mike Keifer, 4310 Lower Saucon Road, said he thinks if it's eminent domain, it should run across as much public land as it possibly can. For any clearing they do, it's easy to keep track of what trees they take down and have them replace every caliper inch of tree they take down plus 10%. They do a lot of that in NJ. He is concerned if they put this gas line through his property, he could not run a spade over the pipeline. Mr. Hijazi asked if the land with the pipeline in LST gets farmed? Mrs. Yerger said yes it does. Mr. Keifer said with this kind of gas line, he won't be able to farm his land. Mr. Johnson said don't you have the opportunity to talk to these people? Mr. Keifer said he hasn't yet. Mrs. Yerger said we haven't seen anything, so we need to try to get to the facts. Mr. Keifer said the gas line we have now is in the middle of Lower Saucon Road, so they could use public land. Let them pay for all that and put it through the golf course the Township purchased.

Mr. Lawrence Opthof asked if they have talked to our officials like Dent, Toomey? Mrs. Yerger said not to her knowledge. You can certainly do that as a tax paying voter. Her personal recommendation would be to contact your representatives and senators.

Ms. Doreen Shosh said her daughter is going to be affected by this pipeline as her address is 2662 Redington Road. She's wondering if it will affect her well, septic, and yard, causing her harm. Mr. Johnson said the green line represents 400' of width, so it looks like it's 800' to 900' away from her property. Mr. Hijazi said in theory, she should not be affected. Trenching and lying down a pipe 900' away from a house should not affect the well or the septic. Ms. Shosh also had concerns if there would be a leak?

Mr. Maxfield said he doesn't want anyone to go away from this meeting tonight taking their sole word on what is going to happen. You need to talk to the people who are really doing it. He would not guarantee from that map that it's not going to be 900' behind a house. We don't know if the maps are accurate. These are the things we need to find out. When we find out, we'll let as many

people know as possible. Ms. Shosh asked if they will have a meeting? Mrs. Yerger said she's assuming there will be more than one as we move forward.

Mrs. Priscilla deLeon said she attended the Williams Township meeting last Tuesday. The residents asked great questions. PennEast gave a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation which is on Williams Township's website. She spoke with Ms. Alicia Harris and told her LST needs a map. Ms. Harris said it's constantly changing along the line and said every time they get a question that's not on the FAQ's, they revise it. Ms. Harris said she will provide a PowerPoint presentation for Lower Saucon.

Mr. Bruce Petrie asked what the pipelines were made out of and is there wrap around them? Mr. Hijazi said it varies. Typically they put stone, sand or something compatible with the actual pipe. Mr. Johnson said they addressed the type of pipe in the FAQ's. Mr. Hijazi said there is a program for maintenance and equipment that measure the thickness and any corrosion occurring, so it is in their interest that no spill occurs.

- MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved that the EAC requests that Council attempt to schedule a meeting with PennEast Pipeline to talk about the issues and address some of the questions LST has.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Hijazi
- ROLL CALL:** 7-0

**C. REVIEW OF MARTIN & MARTIN 08/04/14 LETTER REQUESTING RESPONSE FOR IESI FORM D**

Mrs. Yerger said her concern with the form is that they reference a lot of addendums and attachments and we don't have them, so she's reluctant to say this is complete or not. She would suggest we review it when we have all of the information. Mr. Hijazi asked who filled out the Form D? Mrs. Yerger said she has no idea. Mr. Johnson said he's assuming IESI filled it out. Mr. Germanoski said he would request that we get those attachments.

- MOTION BY:** Ms. Ray moved to request additional information that goes with the Form D as it references a lot of addendums and attachments.
- SECOND BY:** Mr. Germanoski
- ROLL CALL:** 7-0

Mr. Hijazi said there's a question that the IESI engineer has put to the Township, is there anything within a mile radius of the landfill site that has environmentally sensitive areas or recreation type areas? Who is responding to that? Mr. Maxfield said the only person he heard that has responded to that is Jim Birdsall. His understanding is they are reaching out for information so they can complete the Form D. Mr. Johnson brought a map and drew a one mile radius on it. Mr. Maxfield said one of the concerns of the Planning Commission was that if we were to go through and pick these things out, and they acted on our information, there may be something that they caught that we didn't, and he felt we didn't want to be responsible for the accuracy of all of that. Mr. Hijazi said he doesn't understand why their engineering firm isn't doing the research. If they are missing something, we can let them know. It's up to them to provide the information.

**D. MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM**

Mrs. Yerger said you have some information on the Master Watershed Steward Program. This is run by Penn State Extension. She hears it's very successful and a great program if you want to learn about watersheds. There are restoration projects they do. It was so successful in the Lehigh Valley they are launching it in Montgomery County and taking it north to a couple other counties.

**E. REVIEW OF WORKING MAP OF CONNECTIVITY**

Mrs. Yerger said Chris Garges has been working on the map of connectivity of the greenways, protective space, recreational areas, and who owns what. It has on Hellertown's Water Authority

and the watershed properties. We can use this to get a better handle on prioritizing some of the future land preservation projects.

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**A. LEWIS AVENUE (KOSPDAH) TIMBER HARVEST SITE PLAN #SP 01-14 – 4214 LEWIS AVENUE**

Mr. Maxfield said this came by the P/C and it was tabled. Our ordinance calls for all sorts of things from individual tree identification to dealing with slopes and runoff, none of which is on here.

**MOTION BY:** Ms. Ray moved to disapprove the Lewis Avenue (Kospiah) Timber Harvest Site Plan as there is a lack of information.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson

**ROLL CALL:** 7-0

**V. UPDATES/REPORTS**

**A. ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEAN-UP – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014**

Mrs. Yerger said the clean-up is on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Beardsley said he can pick up the supplies.

Mr. Germanoski left the meeting. The time was 8:17 PM.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 12, 2014 MINUTES**

Mr. Johnson said page 2, line 49, change the word “it” to “the stormwater”.

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Maxfield moved for approval of the August 12, 2014 minutes, with corrections.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Johnson

**ROLL CALL:** 6-0 (Absent: Dru Germanoski)

**VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- Mrs. Yerger said the Prescription Drug Box has been placed in the Police Department and is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.
- Mrs. Yerger said we have been working on getting an active report on the Dyer/Bracalente/Noble properties and we have gotten a corrected report from Wildlands Conservancy.

**VIII. TERRY BOOS – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE – Absent**

**IX. NON-AGENDA ITEMS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mrs. Yerger said Penn State Extension is doing a short course on insects and diseases of ornamentals on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in Berks County.
- Mrs. Yerger said we have been asked to work on education and outreach for the MS4. Take a look at what’s in your packet. That’s what we have to comply with, the MS4 regulations for the watersheds and water areas. We’ll put it on the agenda next month.
- Mr. Beardsley said in Hunterdon County, there are signs all over saying “Stop the Pipeline”. Mrs. Yerger said they are showing up in Williams Township also. Mr. Beardsley said if they change the alignment, it’s going to affect us. Mrs. Yerger said maybe we need to figure out how to work this out on a broader scale once we get more information. Mr. Johnson said it would be helpful if all the Township’s talked to each other and maybe we would have more power.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 8:27 P.M.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Maxfield

**ROLL CALL:** 6-0 (Absent: Mr. Germanoski)

**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**October 14, 2014**

---

Sandra Yerger, Chair