

- I. **A. CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:31 p.m. with Dru Germanoski presiding.
- B. ROLL CALL: Members:** Chair, Dru Germanoski, Vice Chair, Jennifer Helton, Secretary, Kathy Pichel McGovern (6:33 p.m.), Chad Heimbecker, Cheyenne Reiman, Laura Ray (6:37 p.m.); **Associate Members:** Russell Sutton & Curt Balch; **Staff:** Carol Schneider; **Absent Jr. Council:** Harry Vicic; **Absent Member:** Allan Johnson; **Absent Associate Member:** Winfield Clark & Janine Bohnam.
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF APPLICABLE)** – None
- E. JUNIOR COUNCIL - HARRY VICIC** - Absent
- II. **NEW BUSINESS** – None
- III. **DEVELOPER ITEMS** - None
- IV. **UPDATES/REPORTS**
- A. Set Spring Adopt-A-Road Date & Chairperson**  
**Chad Heimbecker**  
Did we pick a day for cleaning? I don't think so.
- Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
I think that's me. The problem is, I'm never home. How long does it go?
- Carol Schneider**  
The beginning of June.
- Chad Heimbecker**  
Until the beginning of June? Yeah, the next couple months are going to be crazy.
- Jennifer Helton**  
So, we want to be careful. Things are growing. Ticks are out.
- Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
Oh yeah, yeah. May 24th?
- Carol Schneider**  
Can you give me a second date, just in case? I know there are a couple days that are booked are ready.
- Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
Oh, May 3?
- Chad Heimbecker**  
Oh, I got soccer.
- Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
Do you now?
- Chad Heimbecker**  
My kid.
- Curt Balch**

The 24th is Memorial Day weekend. Still, the following weekend is the 31st.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
Thanks, Chad.

**Chad Heimbecker**  
Until June or the end of June?

**Carol Schneider**  
Mid-June.

**Jennifer Helton**  
So, per Chad, we're going to go May 31st.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
I want to see this son of yours.

**Carol Schneider**  
Okay? So, pick up will be on the 30th. And then what time on the 2nd?

**Chad Heimbecker**  
What time do we show up? Last time?

**Jennifer Helton**  
No, you're talking about pickup.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
Yes. The 31<sup>st</sup> at 9 a.m.

**Carol Schneider**  
And June 2nd for drop off.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
Sure, got it.

**Carol Schneider**  
I'll send the confirmation to you tomorrow.

**Dru Germanoski**  
Note that Laura Ray has joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
I have to coordinate you guys want to help pick up trash for the Historical Society. That's a long road.

**Jennifer Helton**  
I did 412 it took about five hours on Saturday.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**  
Yes, you did, because it looks really nice. Thank you. It really does. We're doing Countryside Lane and Yikes, that meetings tomorrow night.

**Chad Heimbecker**  
This one doesn't seem to take very long.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

No, it only takes like an hour. I was thinking about it. Countryside Lane is a one that's a long road anyway. Countryside Lane is a long road.

**Chad Heimbecker**

And my offer still stands with your section on Lower Saucon.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Thank you.

**Chad Heimbecker**

The Watershed has one, right?

**Jennifer Helton**

Yeah, but it's this weekend.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Oh, it's this weekend.

**Jennifer Helton**

Yeah, yeah, and it's very short.

**B. Educational Ideas for Residents (MS4, Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels)**

**Dru Germanoski**

Okay, so we're set for those educational ideas for residents. One thing labeled here is the MS4. Jennifer had been in contact with Paige Strasko Watershed Specialist, and I told her I would check to make sure tonight with the committee, but she would come to our next meeting and give us an update on the on the MS4 for storm water management. And I don't know if I mean our meetings are open to the residents, and I don't know if that's. Think we want to, if we could put this on the Facebook page or any other way to communicate that she'll be here to give us an update. Any residents are certainly welcome, and that would be one sort of outreach, educational opportunity. The real advantage of that, too, is that she would be here with the expertise to answer questions. Should anybody have them? So, if we could publicize that somehow, Carol, I think that would be good.

**Jennifer Helton**

And she'll have like a PowerPoint, I asked 45 minutes to an hour.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I wonder if we should invite, just the suggestion, inviting the zoning people, just to learn with zoning committee.

**Dru Germanoski**

Oh, zoning committee, yeah, that might be a good idea too.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

And planning, just invite them just to learn.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Parks and Rec.?

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

We could, you can, but they don't do building. They don't, you know, the Planning Commission, and, of course, is zoning, the zoning board, but they have to review blueprints and, you know, new development, but planning and Parks and Rec don't but if you also want to be all inclusive, is that what you're saying? Just open it up.

**Dru Germanoski**

So, Carol, you have email addresses for the other committees if you would forward an invitation to them, indicating that Paige Strasko, the watershed specialist from Northampton County. Say again, her last name Strasko, S, T, R, A, S, K, O, and her position is water shed specialist from Northampton County Conservation District. Kathy McGovern has given me the Lancaster Farming Nutrient Management newsletter, and it says in here, there's an article that says rain barrel kits are available at extension offices. That's Penn State Extension offices. We could publicize that as well, share that information with the township residents. So, I give this to you, Carol, is that the most effective way to do that? So, if we can do that, is this information available to our residents that these rain barrel kits are available at extension, Penn State Extension.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I can, yeah, okay, I can do both.

**Jennifer Helton**

Does it have a cost?

**Dru Germanoski**

I'm sorry, the cost per barrel. Yeah, there's it doesn't list it here.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

You have to go on the Penn State Co Op site.

**Dru Germanoski**

Okay, so you'll forward that information to Carol.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I'll forward it to the committee, and then I'll forward it to you as well. Where will they be available? I think they're available now.

**Chad Heimbecker**

On this topic from the last meeting, we were talking about rain gardens as well. And so, I reached out to the Penn State person who was doing the presentation that I took on that, which is here, and I'll pass this around. So, this has a bunch of good information, if you just want to look at that. I also downloaded the assets that were provided with the course were by about nine different PDFs. And you know, they all have a bunch of different information about best management practices for homeowners and talk about some landscape and ecology improvements for yard to meadow along the meadow, programs and things like that. So, there's a lot of information and images that I'm trying to show here that we I don't know if we're allowed to use or repurpose. I know that the township has this, which I found on the Facebook page, thank you, and printed this out. There was also this that I found on the website, right this. I don't know if this is accurate. This is a working with nature to manage storm water. This was also on the Township's website Google. Google found it. So, whether you can get it from the website or not, it's still on there. It's on No, I have all the PDFs of the entire. Whole presentation. So, there's content here. There's also links to native plants and other resources, right? So, we have all this information, right? I have a full folder of it at this point. I just don't know what we are here. I'll pass this around, what we're legally allowed to use. And I've reached out to the person there to get a presentation. I haven't heard back yet, so that's in process, but there's a lot of good information. Rain gardens, rain barrels, other water management strategies, reasons and purposes behind it. The London meadow programs make a lot of sense to try to get behind as well. So, there's a lot of good resources here and good ideas on how we can manage our water show more effectively.

**Carol Schneider**

The only thing that I did on there was I updated the link. The link that was on there wasn't activated anymore, so that one will link whoever clicks on it back to the website.

**Dru Germanoski**

The stormwater management, we produce this so that's, that's perfectly legal to do.

**Chad Heimbecker**

But if there's a way to...

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

When you go on to Lower Saucon Township's EAC, Lower Saucon Township, Council departments, EAC.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Specifically, this document, I'm not sure.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

No, it's not there anymore.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I forget where I clicked on to get it.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

That's where I found the endangered species. And I found that there was something else on there. There's only a couple of things on actively on the EAC website.

**Dru Germanoski**

Is this what this was on the Facebook site?

**Chad Heimbecker**

And this was published to Facebook maybe a few days ago, last week.

**Carol Schneider**

Someone wanted to update it. That's why I included it in the packet.

**Dru Germanoski**

I think you were probably fine with it as it is.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I mean, this has good information on it. I just don't know if there's anything that we can add to that might focus in on more of the rain barrels, specifically, rain gardens, specifically on to meadows specifically.

**Jennifer Helton**

I mean, I think just looking at the website, if you go to our documents, it pulls in and right now, it talks about open space, pest management policy, radon, natural resource, and then 1000 canker disease. I mean, obviously there's a place where, if we want to put some of this information, we should be able to.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I'm allowed to put this up, I have all these PDFs that we could provide, and we can put them up as links we could even repurpose. I don't know how we go about doing that. If we wanted to cut out digital assets and create our own little pamphlet, much like we already have here.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

In my opinion, that needs to be put back up. And this should be shared with back to planning and zoning, and this should be shared with parks or rec.

**Dru Germanoski**

Yes.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

You know, I mean, the information is available. We just, it's just not accessible right now.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I just wanted to show you what I found. I still trying to get someone to come talk to us. And you know, if it's a question of cutting these things up and making it happen with graphics design or document editing, I can put my hands into that without a problem.

**Dru Germanoski**

One thing we could do with the stormwater management thing Carol, is to just add item two where it says rain barrels can be effective way to capture is to simply add a note there that says rain barrels are available through the Penn State Extension.

**Carol Schneider**

I wanted to know what pages you wanted changed.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I'll send that to you when we get home.

**Russell Sutton**

Yeah, they got a copy of that.

**Dru Germanoski**

And then again, if we could share this with these other committees, that would be great make sure it's on our EAC website. That's one way to reach out to the residents of the township as well, to make this available to them.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Will there be support here? Do we want to reconsolidate some of this information into other literature, new literature?

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Yes. Okay, yes, I guess. Do we have to define tonight what that is like? Do we want to put it together, give a new title and put it on the EAC, on the count, you know, on the or do we want to think about it? Do we want to put out? I don't think we're allowed to put out, like a newsletter or something. I don't think we're allowed to do that.

**Dru Germanoski**

Well, we're certain about the stormwater management that we certainly can add with the adjustment to add the Penn State Extension and link to them for rain barrel availability, because otherwise we're just saying rain barrels could be effective. We're not giving people any agency to help them with rain barrel acquisition. So putting the Penn State Extension link in there, we're doing that.

**Chad Heimbecker**

If we were going to redo this, I would suggest putting a QR code down here. A QR code, yeah, or for whatever links are on there too, just because it makes it so much easier for somebody, if they're on their phone, like when you distribute it on Facebook, that you can open that up and go right to the source as well.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

So where did was that all Penn State?

**Chad Heimbecker**

That's all Penn State, except for the that's Penn State, except for the one document, the two documents that I found from a Lower Saucon Township, stormwater management search, or, you know, rain barrels, right? That's just those two files. Is what I found. Just curious. So, maybe this has to be expanded a little bit, or could be?

**Dru Germanoski**

I didn't quite hear your Chad, I'm sorry.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Maybe we can expand this a little bit, maybe double side it, I'm not sure, or two pages. I'm not sure if there's some new information that might we might want to add on to here. So, I know it was sent out. I think it's great info, but maybe we can update it just a little.

**Dru Germanoski**

So, Carol, you have a PDF, I can download this too. Maybe what I can do is send a copy of this to Paige as well and ask her for suggestions for anything we might add to this to be more complete.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

That's the point when you do that. Where do you want this information?

**Chad Heimbecker**

On the EAC page.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Okay, perfect.

**Chad Heimbecker**

EAC website, that's where our resources are supposed to be.

**Carol Schneider**

There is an MS4 on our website under storm water. It's the whole explanation about MS4. So that's where I would put the document. And then there's rain barrel information. There are several links on there. I don't know how updated the rest of the information is, but there is stormwater one is already on there.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Where?

**Carol Schneider**

On our website, under stormwater.

**Jennifer Helton**

I'm just curious.

**Carol Schneider**

Yeah, that information is there.

**Chad Heimbecker**

You don't have to have only one point of entry to get to the file. You know, we could have the link on the EAC page. It could stay, the resource could be on that page, but we should still cross reference it, and that helps with SEO.

**Laura Ray**

I know they're in the process of redoing the website overall for the township and any minute now, it'll be out there, I hope, soon.

**Carol Schneider**

There is a lack of people, I don't know what to say.

**Laura Ray**

I thought they were real. They're close. So, I think whenever that happens, we should, like, really look at the EAC page and look to make it more friendly. Yeah, it is buried information. So, yeah, you have to really know the weird path to go down to find things. So, maybe we can have a nice page under EAC, that's whatever the hot topics that we want to promote. So, when that happens, we can work on that.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Was there ever a request? I didn't know. We will redesign the whole like the whole, I guess what we're talking township website, the whole website.

**Laura Ray**

The whole website.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Was there ever a request for each committee to look at their what's on the what's currently on there? If there was I missed it.

**Laura Ray**

Not that I know, okay, I'm just curious. We could do that.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

And say, you know, just take this off.

**Laura Ray**

I think they're going to. It up with the info that they have. But then, you know, we can adjust it.

**Carol Schneider**

Everything migrated over as November, but we've been working on it. Just haven't had enough staff.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Right.

**Carol Schneider**

Honestly, because the meeting was canceled last night for Park & Rec., I just finally had time to instead of doing minutes right away for the meeting. I literally started to look at Park and Rec and EAC today.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I see. I see.

**Carol Schneider**

Staff/Stacy's been working on everything else; Zoning was asked to do the Zoning page. She hasn't looked at it yet. So, there are things to come. And, you know, there's a deadline, and we're trying to manage it.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Understood.



**Carol Schneider**

But if you want, you can look at the current site and you can, you know, come up with what you want on there, that's fine. Everything was migrated over to the new site. I just have to modify it.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

The last thing I want to have happen, though, is I send you something. Chad sent you Curt to unit. I mean, if we're going to do that, we should probably agree as a committee and send one more.

**Chad Heimbecker**

There is no point to do it until the new sites launched, the context contents already fixed. We're not going to go change anything around. And if we do it on the site we have now, it's just going to get deleted.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

All right, so just wait.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Well, that'll give us time to pull some of those together. Anyways, okay.

**C. Plastic Bag Update (LR)**

**Dru Germanoski**

That brings us to plastic bag update. Laura, is there an update

**Laura Ray**

Chad probably has more than me, but so I think Chad will have to update us on where he got with business visits. I think the next piece that we should work on is like a promotional piece for public knowledge to start sharing that information, of what you know, why they would want to do this, what the advantages are, how it would work, etc. So, the businesses that I had been to, or we went to together were, you know, not resistant to the idea at all, and pretty favorable.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Oh, nice.

**Laura Ray**

I mean, they go with the flow. Did you get a chance? Chad, today?

**Chad Heimbecker**

Last month, a week ago, I went out. I went to the giant shopping center on Leithsville, and walked through all those businesses, talked to all the managers that I could. Giant, UPS Store, notably Jersey Mike's, that has 3000 locations, and they have already switched over to all paper recycled plastic has been eliminated, except for they have no plastic. It's just paper, recycled bowl, recyclable bowls as well. So, they've taken this as an initiative for themselves. Obviously, New Jersey has banned plastic bags, so that maybe that's beneficial for them, but I did some of the things that we've talked about. How do you know? How do we nuance this the right way so it doesn't negatively impact some businesses that are reliant on plastic in some ways, where, like the cleaners made a point of that they need these clear garment bags to be able to see everything on the spindle like you can't put a fabric bag over the top of the outside of it or anything. So, that would be one of these exceptions, I think, that we should consider. I have phone numbers for giant for Wine and Spirits state to talk to. Obviously, they've done it already in other places like Doylestown and New Hope. So, I think I'm going to take a lap down into Bucks County and see how they've implemented that. Some people said that the customers wouldn't be happy paying for an additional cost if they charge for paper.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

The wine and spirit store. They put it in a paper bag.

**Chad Heimbecker**

And that brings up the double bagging thing, which seems like I got this from both the Chinese restaurant there as well as the Italian Feasta pizza. Both were to express concern that they normally sell 100, maybe \$100 worth of food, and they don't want it tearing or ripping apart, so they like to double bag. But then I went to Tasty Dish in Hellertown. I got take out from there, and they had a very nice, thick paper bag with handles in it that held everything fine anyway. So, I think it really just comes down. You can find the right product, product. It might add some cost. And I don't want to put too much of a burden on some of these people, but maybe you don't need to waste two bags.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Just FYI Saylor's does that too. They, I don't know what it is, but it's a thick paper bag. And, man, you can and it, you know, it's stable. So maybe just a little educational piece.

**Russell Sutton**

Dollar stores use an awful lot of plastic.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Yes, right? And we did talk to the Dollar Tree that was on 378 we have their corporate info as well to talk to. So, I've been to about a third of the businesses in the township that on our list. I'm going to keep going another round this month as I can get time and see if there's any other issues.

**Dru Germanoski**

See if you hear, I mean, I forget what I picked up the other day somewhere, but the plastic bag just like tore immediately, and it wasn't very heavy items. Whatever it was, I was rather astonished the bag was, you know, some plastic bags aren't infallible either, no. And again, what a lot of them do is double bag them because of their deficiencies.

**Russell Sutton**

And the world's worst is Lowes.

**Curt Balch**

Oh, that. Those are terrible. I walk out with my things in hand.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Especially when you buy hardware.

**Dru Germanoski**

The million-dollar question is, what do the robust paper bags with the handles, what are the costs associated with them that would be worth knowing and helpful for us to deal with both the vendors and the people? The other thing that I still can't get around is, I think ultimately, it's, consumer laziness. Bring up Ontario again, because plastic bags are illegal. Everybody carries their own bags. They're perfectly robust. It's perfectly easy to do. You just have to have the resolve to do it. Needless to say, if you buy a case of beer in Canada, you can take those bottles and cans back and get deposits. We don't do that either, or I think again, we're just lazy. They just do it as a matter of due course. When we were children, there used to be deposits on bottles because some of us made extra money by collecting bottles.

**Curt Balch**

When did PA eliminate that?

**Dru Germanoski**

It must be in the early 70s, mid 70's. In New York State, it's been the case for over 50 years.

**Russell Sutton**

Aluminum cans would be great to raise money.

**Curt Balch**

Absolutely. Big Fund drive.

**Russell Sutton**

Especially just the tabs.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I talked to Bob Freeman about it, actually, because one of those bills came up somewhere along the line, and he said that it's the grocery stores they don't want the hassle. They don't want to be bothered. They don't want to do it.

**Russell Sutton**

It's not a big deal to put a heavy bag in your car. Just keep it in the car, and when you go in. You just take it in with you. I don't know what. Why is that such a big issue?

**Jennifer Helton**

Chad, somebody might go by Fresh Market. They had removed plastic and they gone back and maybe good to get some insight into why they reversed?

**Dru Germanoski**

One checkout person there, when I asked, told me people complained.

**Jennifer Helton**

But it might be good to hear what the management says. You know, it'll be just a cashier.

**Dru Germanoski**

So, I mean, management decided so they would have a more comprehensive answer. I'm sure.

**Chad Heimbecker**

They went back to plastic.

**Dru Germanoski**

Yep, I carried bags in there, and I was shocked to see that they had plastic I thought there's a double take that they had plastic bags available again. But I think what we have to do one thing that is clear, Laura Ray makes a very important point that is communicating with people is going to be crucial to this having any kind of success and a well thought out plan that can address some of these issues of cost and people have an option buy a paper bag at the store at the checkout, or start to carry your own bags in with you. You have two options.

**Chad Heimbecker**

But for the businesses that are take out. That seems like that's where that's a little bit fuzzy. It's one thing, like we said, we said last month, when you walk into a grocery store, you have those bags in your car, but if you have somebody who's delivering the food for you, or Uber Eats, or something like one of those other services, the food delivery services that to have that they want this double bag because in their head, that sturdy, stable, expensive way of doing it.

**Dru Germanoski**

I was away for the weekend, and I know that my wife had Chinese takeout on Friday night. We're going to pay. Her bag with handles, and the paper bag was pretty sturdy. Oh, they exist, yeah, I'm not sure. I'm not sure if she bought it in Hellertown, or if she bought something on her way home from work in in Easton area or Bethlehem Township. I'll find out. Just out of curiosity. Okay, well, thanks for your work on all this, Chad, it's a lot of time, and thank you for doing this.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Do you need any help?

**Chad Heimbecker**

Okay, yeah, okay. I mean, if you want to come around with me, you can.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Just asking, that's fine. Okay, keep plugging along.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I'm trying to schedule it when I can, you know, I had a little bit of time one afternoon, so I went out, and I think there were 50 or 60 businesses on the list, and we've had about 20, so about 30 of them. So, 30%.

**Curt Balch**

We should cross reference that list with the outreach library for the book sale. Skip their business. And we stopped by.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

When you get a list of 50. That was for Lower Saucon Township.

**Laura Ray**

So, there were a lot of them, though, that are kind of odds and end kind of business I don't know. I never went back to it and eliminated the ones that really aren't the ones that would have bags, right anyway, you know, like the auto repair store. Or, I mean, not an auto parts store, but, like, a body shop, yeah? So, there's not tons more to talk to that would be bag business.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

That's what I was because you said you did, like the 378 now you did 412. The only thing that's really left.

**Laura Ray**

At the bottom of 378.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Oh, that little strip mall, and then, like with the bagel basket is, or whatever that's called.

**Laura Ray**

Yeah, we don't have much concentrated business area, right?

**Chad Heimbecker**

If it's going to be a financial burden for some of these companies, these businesses, the larger ones, seem like they can absorb this somehow, like they're ready for it. They'll just adopt whatever the protocol is. If it's the small, little mom and pop spaces that I'm concerned for at the end of the day, that costs them \$1,000 to buy bags, versus 500 bucks. Where are they going to get those 500 bucks from? They're going to turn around and put it on top of their cost. And then somebody else goes to some another vendor, that restaurant that doesn't, you know, in a different Township, or something like, yeah, that's a concern too. So, we have balance in some way. And then obviously there must be some exceptions, I think, for the specialty use written into this. But the allowance for charging a fee of five or 10 cents to offset what their loss would be, I think, is important as well.

**Laura Ray**

And another real purpose for some of them, for the fee for the bag is to get people to say, Oh, I'm not going to pay 50 cents for my bags. I'm going to, it's worth my while to carry mine in, you know, to just get the habit going. I mean, some people, if they don't care, they'll just buy the bags.

**Dru Germanoski**

Something that, at the outset, seems simple, gets complicated fast. Okay, thank you. That brings us to the electronic recycling event. We have a flyer in our packet so that that basically gets that ball rolling. Now, will that be distributed with the next newsletter, township newsletter that goes out? I think we should. That's that goes out when I know one just after our last meeting. You mentioned it, and it was in my mail the next day. Okay? But that's kind of good. End of June is good timing. Too soon is too soon.

**Carol Schneider**

It will just be on the website, not published.

**Dru Germanoski**

I thought at the last meeting helped me with this. Was the township going to make paper copies available for people who requested it to have it mail?

**Carol Schneider**

Residents will have to call in or email their request.

**D. 2025 Electronic Recycling Event September 27, 2025 (JH) – Nothing to report.**

**E. Lehigh Valley EAC (CH)**

**Dru Germanoski**

And then Lehigh Valley EAC Chad, you've been working with people there?

**Chad Heimbecker**

Yes, I sent out a Doodle poll, and we are having a meeting online for half a dozen of us who can attend on next week.

**Dru Germanoski**

That's Monday night, correct?

**Chad Heimbecker**

Yeah. the 14th. So we'll try to continue the conversation there and keep it. Keep it moving forward. I don't have anything else to report on that.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

That's a nice response.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Yes, I think Allentown, Bethlehem.

**Jennifer Helton**

Now, is it just you, or did you invite other people like us?

**Chad Heimbecker**

If you'd like, I sent, I sent the invitation.

**Jennifer Helton**

I didn't get the doodle.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I sent the invitation out to everyone who was in the email thread. As far as part of that comment that's been AB, that's Lehigh Valley collaboration email that's been in there. I think Dru is on it.

**Dru Germanoski**

I received it.

**Jennifer Helton**

I didn't.

**Chad Heimbecker**

You weren't part of the meeting.

**Jennifer Helton**

I attended that meeting.

**Chad Heimbecker**

You got cut off of it? I apologize. I will send, I will send out to the EAC, the meeting invitation, if you can attend it next week.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I also did not just see, no, I didn't receive it. I was unaware.

**Dru Germanoski**

That was a Zoom meeting?

**Chad Heimbecker**

Teams meeting. I apologize. I didn't realize that you weren't on this thread where we've been having all of these other conversations. You would have been seeing what's going on behind the scenes anyways.

**Jennifer Helton**

Thank you for adding me. I think I can attend what time?

**Chad Heimbecker**

7 p.m. I'll send you a link.

**Speaker 1**

This is also good time to bring up.....

**Chad Heimbecker**

Jennifer and Cathy, who want to be on this. Anybody else here?

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I do want to be on this thread, please and thank you.

**Laura Ray**

Just send it to everyone.

**Russell Sutton**

Everybody.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Should I blast it to the EAC as well?

**Jennifer Helton**

Okay, and is this a good time to bring up the social?

**Chad Heimbecker**  
Right?

**F. Lehigh Valley Planning Commission - LVPC (RS)**

**Jennifer Helton**

It's Lehigh Valley, EAC network, summer social and round table discussion on June 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Carol sent it out.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Yes, I remember the email we got on.

**Jennifer Helton**

Well, that's Carol's fault.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I had nothing to do with that one.

**Curt Balch**

Team space as well?

**Jennifer Helton**

Oh, well. No, it's in person.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

When did you send this?

**Carol Schneider**

I sent out to all of EAC.

**Jennifer Helton**

Yeah, it did about a week ago, three weeks ago.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Like three weeks ago. Is that what you said?

**Jennifer Helton**

I thought it was just a week.

**Dru Germanoski**

Is that 6:30?

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Yes, 6:30 to 8:00. I'm going to take a picture, and then I'll pass along, Because I would like to go to that as well.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Save the date, March 18th. We got the email on March 18th.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I'll look.

**Chad Heimbecker**

June 11, 6:30, to 8pm and Lynn Rothman here will be on this meeting that we're having on Monday next week. Get to talk to her about this Bethlehem City EAC the chair.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I believe it, Carol.

**Jennifer Helton**

Thank you for doing that I did. Seven.

**Speaker 1**

I sent it when you were having issues with your email. It didn't come back then.

**Jennifer Helton**

The next topic.

**Russell Sutton**

I attended, because Allan couldn't, and I also wanted to be a part of it, so I asked him if I could join as well. So, we could have two representatives, and actually it was very informal and very educational. They had different sectors. Each had it was like a round table. One was industrial, which was unique processes of factories and energy uses and general manufacturing, cement production, food and beverage processing. They had one for transportation, which was fuel combustion from vehicle travel, cars, trucks and buses. One for commercial energy uses in business, schools and hospitals, heating and cooling and lighting. Residential energy use in homes, heating, cooling, lighting and appliances, solid waste emissions from land spills, waste decay, gas flaring, agriculture emissions from agricultural activities, fertilizer and machinery, water and wastewater, treatment of potable water and wastewater and treatment plant operations. And they had a lot of information. And basically, if we don't take any action, the mission rate is going to go up to 9.3% by 2050, and greenhouse gas emissions by sectors. These show the different sectors. And Lehigh in Northampton County has the highest. They have 9,803,000 of CO2 Carbon County only has 1,000,318, Warren County has 1,000,599 and the Greater Lehigh Valley has 12,721 and these are large numbers, and also the temperature has gone up almost 3.5 degrees. And this is global CO two compared to annual emissions. And this is information from 1750, to 2020, and it's went from 280 up to 400 so it's just an upward slope, and if we don't do something about it, we're destroying the whole planet. Pennsylvania is planning 25% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030, and 80% reduction from two of five levels by 2050 New Jersey is 50% reduction from 2021 and 80% reduction from 2021 by 2050 they had a lot of draft measures for all different things there, and basically there's still, we've just filtered a lot of information. We just have to fill it in. But the main thing was the temperature curve that's going up, the change in the environment, the amount of CO2, the number of other gasses, not just not CO2, but then the temperature rise. The average winter temperature has increased 3.9% the average spring temperature has increased by 2.6%, the summer average temperatures increased by 1.9% and the fall by 1.7 so the annual rise in temperature is 2.5% and that's a big number. And I mean, when you add that all up, that kind of spells an ecological disaster, and the climate change hazards of extreme heat, air pollution increase precipitation and flooding, loss of native plants and animals, milder winters with less snow, like this year, disease spread by insects, Lyme disease, West Nile virus, wildfires, which we really know it's been everywhere, and reduce crop year yields. So, it affects everyone. So, we really need all to get on the bandwagon, reduce these levels. The answer multiple classes. I mean, it's so many things to consider, because it affects everything from home to residential to manufacturing. And I don't know if you're aware of this. I don't know if we brought this up before, but there's a house bill that was brought up in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania on March 17, and it was brought up by Representative boner. And what struck me, of real interest was of municipal waste, residential waste or hazardous waste may not be located with a three mile of the border of a municipality having a population density at least 1000 residents per one square mile this section shall apply to landfill, seeking a permit from the Department to initial open, reopen, expand, and operations which have not finally be granted by the department and a court having final jurisdiction as an applicant. This is in the state right now, and I. Called Robert Freeman and Tom I really want him on board with this, and he agreed with this, and Cathy called him as well. So, I'm trying to get everybody to call because this really has a lot of bill numbers. That's Bill 935 and there's also a bill 934 Yeah. So, I mean, this is important, because this, this would stop the dump in the strikes.



**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I don't know if it's worth the conversation or not. If the EAC can write a letter to it would be Lisa Boscola I guess Bob Freeman.

**Russell Sutton**

Boscola is basically nonresponsive.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

But we can still send a letter. I mean, I don't know how the group feels about that. And I think Milou McKenzie also, in our jurisdiction?

**Russell Sutton**

He's a representative. Yes, well, invisible.

**Dru Germanoski**

Is there a date for when there's, there's going to be a vote?

**Russell Sutton**

No, I want to call the one that brought it up and find out more information on it. I'll call and find out more information about that, because I think that's important.

**Dru Germanoski**

Right? Then we can discuss writing a brief letter, right, encouraging them to vote in favor of this. Correct.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

It's just a question.

**Russell Sutton**

I'm attending the next workshop, which is on the 24th of this month, and I said I'd like to be a steady part of the group.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Great. That's awesome. Thank you.

**Dru Germanoski**

Thanks for going to the meeting Russ and reporting this back. This is, this is important. And I mean, this is, I'm right now starting in my environmental geology class, my annual discussion of fossil fuels and then acid rain and anthropogenic climate change. And one of the things that often get pushed back and people say, well, this will cost money. The real cost of climate change will far outweigh anything we would do to try to mitigate our emissions. I mean, there's just no question about it. Talk to an insurance actuary, and you'll learn quite a bit rather fast of what of their perceived and experienced cost associated with it.

**Russell Sutton**

And I don't know if you're aware or not, I'm actively involved with Lehigh, with Dr Balal, who's my neighbor, one of his other professors, is doing a project right now on the dump, and I'm helping them compile information, and they're doing a study of it and its impacts, and I think that's super important that the college got involved with it, and it's actually going to be like, maybe thesis for some of the students there. But that's actively in place.

**Dru Germanoski**

That's great news. What department are they in?

**Russell Sutton**

I'm trying to think of her name, well, Dr. Balal is part of the Biology Department, and I forget her name.

**Dru Germanoski**

It's a little tricky. There's two. So, the biology department, as it were, bifurcated or split several years ago, in part, went with there's Earth and Environmental Science, which tends to be the ecological scale biologist, and then the other part of the biology department, more of in simple terms, I guess I would say the microbiology group has stayed a biology department, per se. So, what's the professor's last name?

**Russell Sutton**

Balal, first name, right? Oh, Kahan. I'm sorry, his first name is Balal. Last name is Khan, K, H, A, N, sorry, I have his number if you need it.

**Dru Germanoski**

Okay, I'll be able to find him on the Lehigh website now that I have a name, right? Okay, all right. Well, thank you for all of that.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Before we get off track, do you want to put it on the agenda for next month, House Bill 934 and House Bill 935, it's a question. We don't have to, but...

**Dru Germanoski**

Well, I mean, if we're going to, we want to submit a letter, then we should put it on our agenda so we could discuss a draft a draft letter.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I have that information.

**Russell Sutton**

At that meeting, basically, I presented about landfill gas is how they mitigate through the ground, and it can come in through your foundations for miles, and the importance of that, and methane safety standards. Movement of landfill gas is at the buildings, the health effects of ammonia and hydrogen sulfide odors from the landfill, which we know about, but there's so much stuff about reducing landfill gas at homes and litigate mitigation of landfill gas is. But the thing that I don't understand is they had that new plant there, and they burn every three to five minutes. It looks like an eight-pond drop. They're burning the methane that's not usable for their product, and that just and I asked the engineer, I said, what exactly is, when you burn methane, do you get? I said, Don you get CO2, which is a greenhouse gas? And he didn't want to say that. And yes, that's the answer.

**Dru Germanoski**

It was just ironic. Yesterday, my wife and I were driving by when that flare up, she noticed it more than me. And she said, boy, you should see it. Sometimes you see it, I know, yeah, so, so if you would forward that information to me, if you have it as a PDF or online somehow or link, yeah, to that land throw gas, I would love to see that.

**Chad Heimbecker**

As a question. I guess the wildfire risks. You know, my property is heavily wooded. I know most of us live in rural parts of this township. What's where we are as a township? With having preparedness? I mean having wildfires up on the North Slope of the Lehigh Valley last year was the first time I didn't know that that's really happened.

**Russell Sutton**

We're not prepared.

**Chad Heimbecker**

And if anything like that were to spark up, do we have emergency services or any?

**Russell Sutton**

I got ostracized for tearing down my dead ash trees, which were completely hollow, and I got right through the colds, and my neighbors are attacking me about it, and I'm trying to put a solar system in my backyard and, but I took down like 13 dead trees and accused me of taking 60 down. And I have eight two acres, but I took it down. But all some were going to come down in my house. So, they were a hazard all the way around, and they're a fire hazard on top of that, because they're all dried up and they're falling literally. And somebody got killed on the Rails the Trails a tree came down and killed her. So, I mean, if you look at woods anywhere, there's so much flammable material there. I mean, I think there should be a way to thin that out that could be used for something.

**Dru Germanoski**

The township roads are very heavily lined with dead ash, including parks, Kingston Park. So, we had that park survey that came around recently, and that was one of the things that I'm familiar with. And they have, there are multiple dead ash trees around the periphery. They've fallen on the outhouse there. They've fallen on the outhouse at the at the Lutz Franklin school house. Yes, I mean, both outhouses are the new one that was constructed at Kingston Park. Having two trees, one took another one with it. And fortunately, that outhouse was, I guess, as we sometimes have heard, the expression of a brick house, that one apparently, is because it did not, they did not get structural damage to that building. It was remarkable, huge that fell. I mean, that was remarkable. The wooden the old historic outhouse, on the other hand, did not do as well. It's wrapped in plastic right now, but that's a pervasive issue for this township, that the tree, all of the roads are lined with dead ash trees, and they generally last less than five years, and they'll, they'll come down on their own. We took ours down. My neighbor took some of a month ago, one fell on his car that he, for whatever reason, explicitly, had left up. So yeah, if you have dead ash trees, you should move on them, because the other dead trees will last. Oak will last longer, but ash trees five years max, they're coming down on their own.

**Russell Sutton**

It cost me \$8,000.00 to do that, and I still haven't halled half of them away, and I have a desist order, and I can't do anything on my property. I can't hold them out. Oh, so that's still ongoing. Oh, it's ongoing. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

To answer your question, though, Chad, Roger will tell you, you know, its township money, you know, to take these trees down along roads. Then you have township roads, and you have PennDOT roads. Penndot. I talked to PennDOT that all the time for where I live. You know, they don't have any money. It's all time and money. You know, Ty Johnson, who is the captain of the fire department. They have a, they have to have an emergency preparedness plan, you know. But volume they just, like on my part, just my property, but like coming up Countryside Lane, going to Wasssergass Road, the volume of those trees....

**Dru Germanoski**

The other issue with respect to fire, the limits of fire. Suppression in this township is such that there some of this township has hydrants much of it does not. So, they're limited to tanker truck volumes to try to deal with wildfire in a lot of places that there is no public water supply. So, their ability to fight a large fire is limited in large parts of the township.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I finally found that the high University stuff.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I still don't know where we stand as the Advisory committee and the environment in the township then to say, look, there's maybe some best practices that we should start looking at to help mitigate the risk of

this, especially when you can understand that things are changing and shifting, and whether it's maintaining or water sheds, and the quality there, not just for drinking water purposes, but take the biological network of that with the macro and vibrates, and all the other organisms and everything. And so, I'm just not sure if, maybe as far as wildfire specifically, then it seems like there's a risk of this happening, and maybe increased risk in our township relative to some other communities because of how heavily wooded we are.

**Dru Germanoski**

Yes, we are experiencing more prolonged, more frequent and prolonged droughts. Yes, so that that increases the fire hazard dramatically. So again, these are some of the costs of climate change that you need to factor in when thinking about this.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

When we discussed Swint, with the with the concern of all the garbage that's there and the garbage that's built up. Do you recall in the Fall? Do you recall in the fall when we were discussing Swint? Give me a minute.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

The trash on Applebutter. So, we were talking about Swint, we talked to the township at that time, and then its kind the reason why I bring it up. I'm not bringing it up out of the blue. Our responsibility here in the EAC is very limited. So, like we brought it up, we addressed it, even if we were happy or not happy with the outcome of all the trash Swint is has a huge you know, it's a dump, it's a la. At the end of the day, our responsibility was to bring up our concerns. But after that, we don't have that. We don't have that kind of power. So, what I'm trying to say is we all agree with you, and I understand exactly what you're saying, but we don't have the authority to say we think you should, you know, thin out these dead trees because they're going to be a fire hazard to Lower Saucon Township residents.

**Dru Germanoski**

All we can do is make recommendations and what happens next? I mean, we were told we are basically now that my problem is my hearing is, is horrible. So, when you were saying, since I was not picking up on that, but at any rate, when we did bring that issue up, we were basically dismissed as, that's a zoning issue, right? Not an EAC issue, even though there are environmental considerations of handling trash the way they do on a barren soil landscape any petrol chemicals or liquids in any of the things that they're disassembling or dealing with are going to seep into the ground there, and they do try to cover up the fence line so that you can't see exactly what's going on in there. It is amazing to me that land use activity is persisting the way it is.

**Russell Sutton**

Can code enforcement do anything about it?

**Laura Ray**

It goes around and around and around.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

My point was our response, our power is very limited.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I'm looking to make those recommendations.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

We can absolutely.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

We could bring it to light and maybe make some recommendations.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I think I know that the Volunteer Fire Company right now, and there's the funding issues around that, and requesting additional reimbursement, perhaps, for calls. What if they have to go out and deal with a 10 acre forest fire?

**Laura Ray**

They do. It's not uncommon. So that's one of the things. Our fire companies do have special equipment that, like other places wouldn't have, because they don't have to go into the woods. So, they have big forestry vehicles. Yeah, that they especially set up.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

Also, the county has a forestry division. That's, I believe it's County, I believe it's state, but that's what they're set up for.

**Laura Ray**

Well, so they're, I mean, they are equipped as good as they can be. I can say that just recently, we had to, we did approve additional funding for the township to bring in tree cutting people, because our township can only cut to so high because of their equipment that they have. So, we approved extra funding so that they can bring in, you know, higher as needed to do trees that are alongside the road. But a lot of them, like Cathy, alluded to if it's a state road, if it's a state road, if it's anywhere near any sort of power lines, like then the utility companies have to be willing to do it. And they're, you know, kind of stingy on what they're doing, although, I mean, in years past, they did improve a whole lot, but I think that was before all the dead ash tree thing happened. So yeah, a lot of it's on utility companies to help out. So, there's, like, all sorts of prongs of the problem.

**Dru Germanoski**

They do seem to be taking some action. The power companies do, but it doesn't strike me as it's being as systematic as I think it needs. You make a good point, particularly with respect to the ash trees. They tend to be very tall trees. So, I could see how we just can't, we just can't without due Township's capacity, right to deal with that. So once again, it's another simple subject that gets complex rather quickly when you look at the details.

**Russ Sutton**

Yes, we have a new device out now. It's actually like a laser gun. You can actually cut the limbs off with a laser from the ground. It's amazing. I'd love to get one.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

To make this a win.....to make this a win, a win, win, win. We can, as a EAC, make recommendations. We can state our concerns. You could also problem sure you could look for grants, you know, I would imagine, or something. So, you know, the question is, is, how can we, how can we answer your question? How can we answer your concern? I guess.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I don't know. I'm just asking it.

**Dru Germanoski**

I mean, it raises the question, what we could do? One thing we could do to take an action whether it's going to have any effect, you know, whether it's going to affect you a change, is another question. But we could put this on the agenda and make a recommendation that the township try to be aggressive in dealing with the dead ash trees in the public parks as a starting point and along the public trails, along the roadway, something along those lines. So, I'm making notes here, things to put on the next agenda. Which one item, of course, is going to be.....

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

It all goes together.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

Other municipalities are doing, like Upper Saucon actually puts out red signs on certain like, busy intersections where it says, like, burn ban in effect. I don't know what they do to do that, but that might be something that's, like, helpful I know, like, I really lit a fire, not realizing it. I mean, like, we're a little close. I mean, it's dry, but, you know, just stuff like that. But I think it's helpful to present recommendations on things that you think could help mitigate the problem, right? You know, instead of that's, I think, kind of what I would understand the purpose of the committee would be to say, hey, we realize it's a problem. Maybe there's something to consider. Instead of just saying this is a problem.

**Dru Germanoski**

The things to think about are when we will discuss this at the next meeting, with the idea of communicating to our concerns, to council and the parks committee as well, and our concerns will, you know, we have to just think ahead. The concerns are multiple there are the fundamental safety hazards associated with these trees falling either in the parks or on a car driving down the road. These things are happening, and again, not to get into the details, but two months ago, one of my sons was driving down past the old SPCA on Lower Saucon Road, and a tree fell right in front of him, I mean, literally right in front of him, and he photographed that and so forth. He dilly dallied at our house for two minutes while we talked about something, and that was one of his things. Damn, I'm pleased that I talked with you a little bit about things dad or I might not have been it may not have. It happened right in front of me. So, these are real hazards. And of course, the woman that unfortunately was killed on the rail to trail makes this less of a hypothetical scenario and a true hazard, plus the fire hazard. So, there's multiple.

**Russell Sutton**

I had. One Missed me about four feet large limb, it would kill me. And not only that, but they're also still doing it because of our neighborhood, they're still burning in the open. And the police car was right there. I said, isn't there a ban on burning right now? And he said, No. And I said, well, we have a drought. I said, why would you be opening burning in the field? Yeah, I think that's a problem. They shouldn't have an open burn while we're still in the middle of a drought.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

You can call and ask before you are burn. That's what I do. You know, if I have to burn?

**Russell Sutton**

No, they were just burning.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

You ask, and they'll tell you at the DCNR that you call.

**Laura Ray**

No, the fire department, actually, I never knew that before, either, but they, they do say yes, no, they will, like, go out and watch over you or be ready.

**Russell Sutton**

I was in shock. The police said, no, you can burn. And I said, it's a drive, you know? I mean, everything is especially in the mountain.

**Laura Ray**

We definitely post a lot.

**Dru Germanoski**

We'll put this on the agenda for the next meeting and have a more organized conversation about it. We can all do a little bit of digging and thinking about this in the meanwhile. Kick it's a good issue. No public comment.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

VI. TOWNSHIP CORRESPONDENCE

A. Reimann (Northampton County) 2025 Report

**Dru Germanoski**

Township correspondence, we have the rather simple and straight forward property report comparing two satellite images, basically saying, including no changes relevant to the terms and conditions the conservation were observed via the comparison of the satellite imagery. Again, this is something that we'll have to discuss when we dig into the open space plan here, and revisions of that. And that's something that is on the forefront of my mind. Is something that we will get to this year, as we had indicated, and, you know, partnering with people is the other agenda item there, or other consideration and getting annual assessments and reports.

B. Hellertown Borough Authority Timber Harvest - Reservoir Road (Q8-7-21 & Q8-11-1)

**Dru Germanoski**

The other item that came our way as part of the minutes, rather extensive timber harvest plan from color, town, borough authority, looks like they're following all the best practices. One thing that did that was, I think, pleasing for me to see was that they're going, there are existing skid trails and timber removal trails that they're going to try to follow as much as possible, and try to skid trails as best possible parallel to contour topographically, that's not going to be possible everywhere. In fact, in one example that they present, you can see that there are a few skid trails that aren't going to be perfectly parallel to contour, but there just doesn't seem to be any other way to do it. But from my read through of this. It appears to me that they're following best practices and have a plan and are going to do this with as small a possible impact. So, I don't know if anybody else had issues with this.

**Laura Ray**

It's very much underway already anyway, on Silver Creek Road and Polk Valley Road, they have entrance ways, yeah, yeah. Very noticeable.

**Russell Sutton**

They did logging there and they didn't follow the rules, and I got them shut down for one day, but that was it.

**Dru Germanoski**

Well, I think we've all seen a huge uptick in logging in the general area here, probably related to an individual logger or forester moving into the area, and I believe approaching landowners and and recommending his services to them. It doesn't seem like a pure coincidence to me. There's looks like cause and effect. At any rate, I know years ago, the township used to try to combat that, and then there was legal action taken, and I think that's the predicament that we find ourselves in.

C. PennDOT - Notice of Public Plans Display for SR 2001, Section 01B Bridge Over East Branch Saucon Creek

**Dru Germanoski**

We also received the Penndot notice about Section 01, B, the bridge over the East Branch of Saucon Creek. So there again, that was a four-year information kind of communication. From what I gathered.

**Laura Ray**

I wanted to talk on that one, though a little bit please. I saw the email about it a while ago, and then they were supposed to post that you could make public comment onto it as of April 1, and it wasn't there the first or the second, but it's out there now. So, I would recommend maybe going out there and giving some comment part, part of what they need to do. So, the bridge is on Lower Saucon Road. It's down Easton Road, between Easton Road and Kings Mill Road, so it's right off there that first block. So, part of what they're doing in their project, though, is there. So, there's poor channel alignment that was created with, you know how it's been for all those years. So that's created scour hole upstream and embankment erosion

near the far abutment embankments, and there's scour holes downstream from the bridge and sediment deposits under the bridge. So, the project is supposed to be repairing those existing scour holes and sediment deposit issues and realigning the creek on the upside stream to prevent future scour issues. So, if you want to put any input regarding that, I want to give input. Supposedly, this will be starting in spring of 2027 and it says completing in the fall of 2027 so that's really where I want to put input to make sure they have all their easements and things lined up with the utilities, because that was a big deal for whoever lives out our way. For the other bridge that they took out up the road a couple, you know, the bridge was out for like, three years, we had a detour. So, you know the detour, it's a six-mile detour for cars. It's a nine-mile detour for trucks. So, it's pretty, big, and it impacts the fire services and police and everybody else that you might want to get to your house in a hurry. So, I would recommend, just as an individual, the links there. It's long to go in and give your public input. You have until April 30.

**Jennifer Helton**

I try to type that link in, and I don't think it works.

**Laura Ray**

I can, well, that's what I'm on my phone. I can send it to you.

**Chad Heimbecker**

They're replacing the entire bridge structure?

**Laura Ray**

Yeah, well, it's not.

**Chad Heimbecker**

They're widening it? maybe a little bit too?

**Laura Ray**

I don't know if it's getting wider.

**Chad Heimbecker**

It's so tight right in there, yeah.

**Laura Ray**

Well, we don't really need...

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

You may. It depends.

**Laura Ray**

The bigger it gets, the bigger things that come up our road, right?

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

That's what happened by that don't belong on the road. PennDOT will tell you that, you know, they need to bring the bridge up to 2025, standards. And that was one of the big things that happened in front of my home. You don't have much choice, because the bridge was an old, you know, waste, you know. And PennDOT said, you know, still, plows got to get through, fire trucks got to get through, dump trucks got to get through. Just takes. They take six feet.

**Chad Heimbecker**

Well, make sense to widen that a little bit.

**Laura Ray**

It probably comes with it automatically, like the other thing got a little bit, you know, wider and straighter the other bridge.



**Chad Heimbecker**

Well, the guard rail there is destroyed, right? Because it keeps getting hit.

**Russell Sutton**

The same way with the Freemansburg Bridge. They should have widened the one side so that people could turn on the right-hand side. All they had to do is put a little extra concrete there and prevent a lot of .....

**Curt Balch**

We'll see if Freemansburg is ever opened again....

**Chad Heimbecker**

They closed the other part of it down. So, I tried to get through there coming back home, and I got totally stuck somewhere up on the hill.

**Russell Sutton**

You go up in the top of the hill and come down the back road. That's one way.

**Chad Heimbecker**

But then it takes you back over to Minsi Trail.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

You can't go across the bridge right now, no, all the way down, like Market, right? You can't do that. So when you get to that top, or you turn left, you have to go right, and it spits you out over like Yates Street.

**Russell Sutton**

You could, you could, yeah, you can turn by the municipal building, go down there in Green Street and go back Green Street, and then you can turn left at the very end. It's very narrow.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

No, what I'm saying to you is you can't, you can't go that way anymore. It's shut down before it gets like, when you get to the very bottom of that, you can't go like, you can't go across the road, at least to work around. Street. Then they just opened it, but it was shut down. You couldn't, you couldn't go that way anymore.

**Russell Sutton**

Yeah, it's been open for a while.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

Two weeks ago. Wasn't Green Street?

**Russell Sutton**

Well, Green Street always at the very end. Yeah, and the sign got mowed down, I don't know what happened.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

Two weeks ago, you couldn't, it was shut down, like, so that's where I was going, like, the very last street there.

**Russell Sutton**

I just went today.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

Yeah, shut down. Went all the way over, and then I was like you couldn't go.

**Russell Sutton**

I tried to go, it's right.

**Cheyenne Rieman**

That was, that was actually shut down. So, you had to go right and then go all the way around.

**Russell Sutton**

That's a one-way road, and I had a car come that direction.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

Yeah, yeah. That's good to know, though.

## **VII. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

### **A. Review and Approval March 11, 2025 Minutes – Tabled to May Meeting**

**Dru Germanoski**

Okay, so this brings us to March 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. I did not, I'm sorry. I did not realize that Carol distribute them on Friday, so I did not review the minutes I usually do. I don't know what others did, whether we feel confident that we should approve them as distributed, or whether we should table that conversation to the next meeting. Look at them. I certainly would look at my language on those minutes between now and then or are, did anybody look at the minutes I admit that. I did not.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I did, I have no comment.

**Dru Germanoski**

Did you read them all? Chad, just mine. Just yours. Okay? Yeah, that's what we had been doing. And I tend to, because of sitting at this end of the table, I tend to have much to say. And so, I did not, I feel a little bit uncomfortable approving them. I would request we table them up next month, and I will look through and forward changes to Carol as I have to bring, I bring it to everyone's attention. And then we cannot spend time the next month, but I'll spend time between now and then.

**Jennifer Helton**

Yeah.

**Dru Germanoski**

Okay, we have a motion to adjourn.

**Kathy Pichel McGovern**

I make a motion to adjourn.

**Chad Heimbecker**

I'll second.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Kathy Pichel McGovern moved for adjournment. The time was 7:50 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Chad Heimbecker, 6-0-1 (Allan absent)

Next EAC Meeting: May 13, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.