

I. **OPENING**

CALL TO ORDER: The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:33 p.m., with Sandra Yerger, presiding.

ROLL CALL

Members: Sandra Yerger, Dru Germanoski, Allan Johnson, Ann Spirk, and Laura Ray; **Associate Members:** Tom Carocci (6:45 p.m.), Kaitlyn O'Connor Sommer (6:35 p.m.), and Jennifer Helton; **Staff:** Stacy Werkheiser and Carol Schneider

Absent: Members: Michael Boyle and Cindy Oatis; **Associate Members:** Nicholas Lynn and Glenn Kaye; **Jr. Council Member:** Bela Silverman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

II. **OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

A. **PROPERTY DISCUSSION #2022-1** – Dru said he, Kaitlyn, and Cindy visited the property and scored it with a total of 16/23. Jim from Zoning said it had no development potential, but there was open space in the dry part of the landscape that looked like a couple houses could go in, or perhaps the landowner could build there, so they scored that 1/5 because it is not a property that a developer would come in. The remaining scoring was reviewed. It sits within the boundaries that are mapped as the Silver Creek Wetlands, which is an area in the open space documents suggest to be targeted. Dru went into detail about the soil, slope, forest, boulder colluvium on the steep slopes which those locations above the carbonate tend to be sponges for groundwater recharge. He said it has prime agricultural soil, it might have limited potential for development – perhaps two lots but not sure. He, along with Kaitlyn verified, that the open space group that visited felt that they should recommend preservation to Council. Sandy thanked them and added that there is another preserved farm by the property near this property. Dru also thought there was another property nearby that he thought was preserved, but isn't showing on the open space map. He recalled that they recommended it years ago, but from talking with owners of property #2022-1 they think the property may have changed hands and not preserved. Sandy said she will check into it. Dru also added the property they scored had a total of 47 acres. Motion by Dru Germanoski to recommend to Council to speak with property owners and evaluate the open space potential. Second by Laura Ray. Motion passes 5-0.

III. **NEW BUSINESS** – None on agenda. Jennifer Helton was introduced and she shared her background and her interest in EAC.

IV. **DEVELOPER ITEMS** – None

V. **UPDATES/REPORTS**

A. **ELECTRONIC RECYCLING FOR FALL 2022 UPDATE** – Sandy wants to keep on the agenda to make sure we stay on top of securing volunteers for the event. Sandy would like Stacy to reach out to the school before school is over.

B. **LAND CONSERVATION MAILING AND WORKSHOP FOR 2022 DISCUSSION** – Sandy has been in contact with Heritage Conservancy regarding having someone come and speak at this event. They have hired a replacement, and Sandy spoke to their supervisor and they suggested Sandy pick a date. Sandy asked for feedback from the group on a Fall date. Dru asked for clarification on who they would be reaching out to for this mailing. Sandy met with the Zoning Officer, and she has the information mapped out and easy for them to identify key people to invite to the workshop. Sandy also said this will be posted on Facebook, Website, and placed in the newsletter. Dru said we need to make sure we schedule it and allow enough time for communications. Sandy said she will bring the letter that the Conservancy had drafted to the next meeting. The Conservancy will have someone do the presentation. Sandy said she would anticipate to do the mailing at the end of August or beginning of September, and then select a date. Laura said she thinks it is best to pick a meeting date. Dru said he thinks a letter draft with a link to our site that already has open space information. Sandy will bring the correspondence so everyone can review and make any suggestions/updates. Dru

added that although the Open Space Action Plan is dated 2007, there is a lot of good information in it and it may be a good idea to excerpt information and include it to residents. The group had a discussion on selecting a date so it can be secured with the Conservancy. Tom suggested a date be picked, have them R.S.V.P. and also provide an option that they are unable to make it but would like to be contacted to learn more about the topic or schedule something. Laura liked this idea as well and Sandy said she will add this to the letter. Sandy will send the feedback to the Conservancy and she will bring the letter back to the June meeting. Sandy said when she speaking with the Conservancy, they suggested not before September or October, but Sandy said to be mindful about the holidays. The October 11th EAC meeting date was decided as the date to hold workshop. Sandy will update the group if there is an issue with that date. Sandy would like the letter to be ready to go right after Labor Day. She will also speak with the Zoning Officer to confirm who the population is that will receive the letter. She will send the draft letter back to the Conservancy to see if they have anything to add. Sandy also believed the Conservancy had a generic brochure that they used explaining what it means to preserve your land. She will also begin that back to the June meeting.

- C. **HELLERTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY** – Dru was unable to attend the last meeting. Laura said they had a special meeting on this topic. The forester returned to this meeting, but he was not at the previous meeting where Frank Pazzaglia did his presentation. Following Frank’s talk, they threw around some questions. They wanted to go back to the forester with some of the questions that came up. Laura said they are rethinking some of the items, such as the parcel selection and the order in which they would proceed. She said they also mentioned the herbicide spraying that it was really the best management practice they would prefer not to use. She felt the meeting went well, and she said she threw out the idea to them about conservation easements as she said she was not sure if they were ever approached about this. She didn’t feel they were very receptive as they do not feel they would ever do anything to damage and (Laura paused)....Laura said they were looking to 100 years in the future when there are different councils, board members, etc. Sandy said they could write in limited timbering into the conservation easement language, but Laura said they did not get that detailed. Laura said they definitely want to do a timbering plan. Laura said she assumed they would be on the mailing list, and Sandy said yes. Sandy asked if there was going to be another meeting in the future. Laura said there was nothing listed for the next day (May 11th), although she thinks they will be talking about it for a while. Sandy said she found a copy of the state’s Forest Stewardship Brochure, and she thinks this could be basic information that may be helpful to them since it is about stewarding forests correctly. Sandy will find and make sure Laura gets copies. Dru added that another thing to keep in mind, that Laura had mentioned, is that none of these boards are forever, but in the meantime, he is convinced and comfortable that as long as Frank is on the board, he will be a strong voice for forest and watershed and hydrologic stewardship. Dru said he has no doubt in his mind that this is what his motivation is. Sandy said that is great to hear. Dru said he is also one person on the board, and they respect his opinion after he has attended a few of their meetings. Dru said he does not think they need to worry about anything nefarious going on with the current board based on his observations. Laura added that they showed highlights from Frank’s presentation to a member of the timbering company, and there were other Lower Saucon residents who have been attending as well who have an interest who live over by Erin Lane, and they invited her back to see the neighbor property which was timbered, and looks bad – like a bomb went off. She is not sure if they are done picking up or not. Dru asked if it was the same logger, and Laura confirmed it is. Jennifer asked if a permit is needed, and Laura said we do not issue permits, but they are to file a plan. Laura is not sure why a permit is not issued. She said there are permits needed for a resident who wants to cut down more than three trees. Laura said with the Emerald Ash issue, there are a lot of people that may need to cut trees down. Sandy asked if she wanted to make a motion, but Laura was more curious if it was a miss. Carol said she believes it was the state. She said it is a state requirement for them to send the plans in and no permits – not the Township. Tom said they would have to look at their code. Dru said the thought the state over ruled (inaudible). Sandy said she isn’t sure if the Township ever had permits. Laura said she thought the idea of the permits was that there would be administrative fees for him (Zoning Officer) looking at the plan and go out and check the site. Sandy confirmed he does, and Laura said she thought that is what the fee

was for. Sandy said our Zoning Officer was out a few times to check on it. Sandy said she will find out about the permit.

VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF April 12, 2022 MINUTES** - Allan thought there was an error with the members listed. He thought Kaitlyn was a member, but she explained she said as much as she would like to, it is a conflict. Laura added we only a recommending body. Dru also added that he requested Frank Pazzaglia's last name is misspelled on 3 occasions to be corrected. Laura also added on page 2, line 32, change "not permit fee" to "no permit fee".

Kaitlyn asked about the Adopt-a-Road date since there was bad weather on the first scheduled date. Carol said there are two weekend dates left, which are May 27th and June 10th for the pickup of materials with the actual road cleanup the next day. Both dates did not work for group, and next pickup will have to happen in the fall. Kaitlyn said she will keep an eye on any trash she sees and pick up as needed.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Dru Germanoski moved for adjournment. The time was 7:12 p.m.

SECOND BY: Sandy Yerger

ROLL CALL: 5-0 (Michael Boyle and Cindy Oatis absent)

Sandra B. Yerger, Chair