

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 6:34 p.m., with Sandra Yerger, presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members:** Sandra Yerger, Allan Johnson, Ann Spirk, Laura Ray, and Cindy Oatis (6:58 p.m.); **Associate**

**Member:** Glenn Kaye (6:55 p.m.); **Staff:** Stacy Werkheiser

**Absent: Members:** Dru Germanoski and Michael Boyle; **Associate Members:** Tom Carocci, Nicholas Lynn, Kaitlyn O'Connor Sommer, and Jennifer Helton.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

A. **PROPERTY UPDATES** – None

**III. NEW BUSINESS** – None

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS** – None

**V. UPDATES/REPORTS**

A. **ELECTRONIC RECYCLING FOR FALL (NOVEMBER 12, 2022)** – Sandy confirmed the date of November 12, 2022, and we are keeping this on to make sure we can get student volunteers for the event, and Stacy is doing this. Stacy asked for how many volunteers they feel is needed for this event, and Sandy would like to revisit at the September meeting. She is looking to have them come in shifts, and she said she knows certain groups need the volunteer hours. Stacy confirmed she will reach to all the advisors and groups that may need volunteer hours. This event is in the upcoming Township newsletter and was in the previous.

B. **LAND CONSERVATION MAILING AND WORKSHOP FOR 2022 (OCTOBER 11, 2022)** – Sandy relayed that they want to get the letter out relatively soon. She reviewed the draft letter that was created, asked for feedback. There was a line added to the letter at the request of Tom Carocci to make sure that those who are unable to attend event may contact us for information shared at event They all reviewed updates made to documents and approved, and with the brochure and FAQs that will be send with letter. Mailing date to residents was decided to go on or around Labor Day so they have a few weeks to review he material prior to the workshop.

**MOTION BY:** Laura Ray to proceed with the workshop mailing for the beginning of September.

**SECOND BY:** Allan Johnson

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Michael Boyle, Dru Germanoski and Cindy Oatis absent)

Stacy will bring the list of the residents who received letter. Sandy said exact address not needed, just road. Laura asked if we had the number of residents that will be receiving letter, but this has not been finalized yet. Sandy said when she was speaking with Zoning Officer, they are going to stay around 10 acres and also may be a few smaller properties around other natural areas. Discussion on where they would like the announcement to be placed, and it was determined it to be placed on our website and newsletter. Even if someone does not have property to participate, it is important for all residents to see that the Township is doing something constructive since the residents voted for the Open Space Referendum by a large majority.

**VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

A. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 10, 2022 MINUTES**

**MOTION BY:** Allan Johnson

**SECOND BY:** Laura Ray

**ROLL CALL:** 4-0 (Michael Boyle, Dru Germanoski and Cindy Oatis absent)

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – Allan asked if anyone heard anything about the timbering that went on at Polk Valley Road, is it part of the Hellertown Water Authority activities? Laura said

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she did not believe so. Allan asked if property owners have to come to Council or get anything to do this to their properties. Sandy said they are to submit a plan to zoning. Laura clarified that they submit a plan to the Zoning Officer. Laura said she would still like to follow up on the permit part of it, she would like to know why we do not request a permit to allow more time for the Zoning Officer to go out before and after since it is a very small window of time. Sandy said her understanding is yes, he goes out. Sandy said she will talk to Zoning Officer about this.

Outside of the environmental things, Laura also mentioned the trucking part she brought up at the Council meeting. Laura said she thinks she will have to do this with Council with ordinance changes with safety issues with the trucks on our roads. Sandy added that about 1-1/2 month ago there was communication from a group that she received that they are looking to make the tractor trailers even bigger\longer again. She was going to see where this is and what the status of this is for the petition to make them even longer. She said this has been done in the past, and we had sent a letter to state saying no. Laura said the police officer did some research to find out what ordinances might be applicable from PennDOT at the state level, but not much at 80,000 lbs. Laura said they are doing K-turns by her property without anyone getting out, he backs up blindly. Allan asked which way they go. Laura indicated they go both ways, some up Polk Valley toward Bergey's and some of them come up and go toward Springtown. Sandy said she knows that there are issues with tractor trailers in our Township again. Allan asked if this was mostly logging trucks or any others, and Laura said logging trucks.

Stacy read an email from Archewild the Township received. They conducted their summer site visit of the fenced plots at the Woodland Hills ongoing reforestation experiment. They removed some weeds, invasive species, and checked in on the planted seedlings. They will continue to keep us updated. Sandy reviewed who they were for those who did not know, and she sees their work at Woodland Hills when she walks there.

Glenn arrived and he was updated on the discussions from the meeting. The logging history was reviewed with him. Allan mentioned the Hellertown Water Authority is considering doing some logging and said the Township can't do anything about because the state changed the laws. Glenn asked why they are logging and if they can make money? Allan said Pennsylvania hardwood is in demand. Sandy reviewed that our ordinances that were strict were struck down because there was a big timbering lobby, especially from Northern PA. Sandy reviewed with Glenn the history of this that the state has higher jurisdiction than the Township. Laura said she feels we can try to do more since a homeowner is to apply for a \$50.00 permit to take down 4 trees, and also reviewed some history with Glenn.

Cindy arrived at this time, and Sandy brought her up to date on the Land Conservation Mailing. Cindy asked about the status of the recycling event. She asked if we had a set-up plan. Sandy said the last few times we did one, Roger (Public Works) needs to be involved and they would do a drive through at the garage and take the pieces out of the cars, and student volunteers would be helping and then they are directed out of the garage. Cindy said Wendy from RRS is going to want to come a few weeks ahead of time to see the layout and how we plan to set up. Sandy suggested she speak with Roger because he helped with the last few and it went very well. Stacy can help coordinate this. Stacy will be reaching out to the school once they are settled to get volunteers. Cindy asked if Stacy received a reply from the DEP after we sent over registration for event. Stacy did not and will follow up on this. Someone also mentioned if Boy Scouts may need volunteer hours.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Laura Ray moved for adjournment. The time was 7:08 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Allan Johnson

**ROLL CALL:** 5-0 (Michael Boyle and Dru Germanoski absent)

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Sandra B. Yerger, Chair