

## HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 11, 2024

6:00 PM

Hellam Township Building

**Members Present:** Judy Bono, Carolyn Fetrow, Ed Hamme, Phyllis Koster, Judith Mueller Audrey Russin (Advisor to EAC).

**BOS Rep:** Mike Shillott

**Guests:** Bob Hale, John Knorr, both Hellam Township residents.

### Public comment:

- Bob Hale encourages EAC to submit comment on Cuffs Run by end of month. Please use docket number or your comment will not register. EAC will submit Fb post for Cuffs Run for Twp approval with Lancaster Conservancy's info on CR. (Phyllis will send to Judith.)
- Bob also raises topic of policy for warehouses, providing information from Penn Future org. with advice about writing an ordinance. Penn Future's ordinance literature could be good resource for Township planning. (For the BOS's information, with these minutes the EAC will provide a link to the document, noting pages that provide a model ordinance; the entire document could be useful.) Mike Shillott suggests looking at present zones and uses and the possibility of having more zones with fewer uses that are tailored to that zone's neighborhood and infrastructure, present and future.
- John Knorr comes with concern about Kreutz Creek, lives downstream from Landfill. What can be done on Kreutz Creek restoration, especially reestablishing wetlands, which filter PFAS and other contaminants. Works with Lower Susquehanna Riverkeepers and for Lancaster Clean Water Partners in Lancaster County. Mike notes that ongoing efforts at restoration of wetlands in Twp as part of stormwater mitigation initiative.

### Old Business:

- Carolyn reports that Cindy Pizzaketti sent report on Creek testing. Conductivity and nitrates are down since Modern Landfill brought their water filtration system online. John reaffirms: the science shows that wetlands filter out PFAS.
- Carolyn will contact Cindy about rain garden workday date—propose April 4.
- Phyllis has been in touch with library about proposed October tree event, w/ trees from seeds.
  - Looking for White Oak acorns, most of which are viable.
  - Other species suggestions? Judy proposes red maples.
  - Pruning info—also good to share at this event.
- Question of effect the Twp has on Kreutz Creek water quality. Audrey reports that there are monitoring stations downstream from the Creek's beginning in Hellam Twp. USGS locations. These data are online. Carolyn will send link to members. Phyllis points out that the Creek also runs through Wrightsville, need to see what it is at end of Twp before Wrightsville before it reenters Township.
- Recycling Poster for Barshinger field—reminder that Carolyn will create.
- Public education location review—best locations? Pollinator Festival, National Night Out. Perhaps Paw Paw festival? Phyllis wonders about scheduling an event at Twp.

### New Business:

- Mowing and weed ordinances. Judy found model ordinance from National Wildlife Federation. She will investigate Twp mowing ordinance and see if we can recommend revision. At the very least, this can be a matter for public education.
- Grid: Judith will work on creating Google Doc of Projects Schedule Grid.

- Need ways to connect with Horn Farm—riparian buffer work. Include Horn Farm’s work in our tree planting count. More ideas? Judy will reach out to Horn Farm about possible collaboration.
- Stroud Water Research Center—would help with riparian plantings.
- Bill Sprenkle has volunteered to revise burn ordinance. We welcome his contribution.
- Judy recommends we create more printed material. Judith will resubmit woodland restoration brochure that never got printed. Ask about other existing material.
- Mike: Updated checklist for SALDO review—Mike will discuss revision with Planning Commission Chair, Devin Winand. “Revision will require a team and champion to work on it,” Mike says.
- Mike recommends update of Environmental Resource Inventory that indicates which properties are under conservation easements.

**Member action items before April meeting:**

- Phyllis will send Judith Lancaster Conservancy’s information on Cuffs Run, comment submission.
- Carolyn will contact Cindy about rain garden workday date—propose April 4.
- Carolyn will draft recycling poster for Barshinger field for EAC review.
- Judy will investigate Twp mowing ordinance to see if we can recommend revision.
- Judy will contact Horn Farm about collaboration with EAC
- Judith will create Google Doc of projects schedule grid.
- Judith will look for woodland restoration document to resubmit to township to create brochure.