

HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

July 8, 2024

6:00 PM

Hellam Township Building

Members Present: Judo Bono, Carolyn Fetrow, Phyllis Koster, Judith Mueller, Bill Zeigler, Audrey Russin (Advisor to EAC).

BOS Rep: None

Guests: Bill Sprenkle

Public Comment: Phyllis (as resident) is curious about the stormwater management design plan: Why take out the trees that are established after flooding of Kreutz Creek? Nature put that there after the flood. It will return if it's removed. It serves water-slowng function. Thinks Twp should consult with Master Watershed Stewards. Phyllis also wonders why is all planning at the bottom and nothing at the top, where the water comes from?

Old Business:

- Strategic Plan: updates ongoing.
- KC Water Quality Monitoring: Phyllis will ask BOS if they want additional info. We need to provide them with the water watchdogs bacteria monitoring info resource.
- DEP created active committee to set PFAS standards.
- Rain Garden weeding schedule: Person on pollinator garden rotation should check the rain garden as well.

New Business:

- At EAC's invitation, Bill Sprenkle joined us to discuss the Twp. open burn ordinance. He has done research on the law and ordinances concerning open burns in PA and the Twp, and EAC seeks his input. EAC discussed experiences of piles of trash burning all night, sometimes as much as two days, and smoke settling in the valley over residential and agricultural land. Such burns release dangerous compounds (dioxins, particle pollution, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, hexachlorobenzene, ash, PFAS, carbon). Observations of open burning instances indicate a need to revise the ordinance and to conduct a public awareness campaign. EAC will look at ordinance present concerns about open burns to the BOS. Concerned about asthma in Twp, which follows from air quality, which is already compromised. Ultimate goal: revising the ordinance and educating the public about terrible health effects of this practice.
(Need to know: What is the process for revising ordinance.)
- Next meeting Judy will present on Mowing and weed ordinance.
- National Night Out: Judy will paint base coat on rain barrel at Twp building before. That will be our main attraction.
- Phyllis will ask Kate when next newsletter article is due. (Judith proposes future newsletter article idea: brush piles as habitat.)

Action items before next meeting:

- Judy will paint rain barrel
- Phyllis will ask Kate when next newsletter article is due.
- Phyllis will ask BOS if they want further info on Kreutz Creek water quality
- Judith will provide Kate with a Facebook post on the rain barrel giveaway at National Night Out