

HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 13, 2023

6:00 PM

Hellam Township Building

Members Present: Carolyn Fetrow, Ed Hamme, Phyllis Koster, Judith Mueller, Kate Nopulos, Bill Sprenkle.

BOS rep: Todd Trimmer

Guests: Bob Hale

Public Comment: Bob Hale on this Thursday's BOS meeting, concerned about rezoning the Kauffman property. Opposes proposed rezoning request to make 23 acres commercial industrial which are now rural ag.. Thinks that land has more benefit as ag than anything else. Against rezoning on principle. Undermines Township's planning. Mr. Hale encourages EAC to speak against this rezoning.

- Carolyn raises issue of traffic at this property. Could make an already tricky intersection trickier.
- Phyllis: EAC should review the same things the Planning Commission reviews.
- Bill: We should have an opportunity to say something about the impact of losing 23 acres of open space. Environmental impact study appropriate too. Need holistic view. Model to look at: farm that sells organic produce.
- All agree: BOS shouldn't make any zoning changes until it has its comprehensive plan. Ed: Need to long view on land usage—how this will affect people decades from now.

EAC at BOS meetings: No need to read minutes at meeting.

Carolyn would like to talk about plantings at upcoming BOS meeting.

Rain and pollinator gardens. Need date to thin at pollinator and plant at rain garden. We plan this out via email for early May.

Tree plantings: March 30 and April 1.

- March 30 - 4:30pm. The address is 4332 Old Orchard Rd. York. Steve Ott is the landowner and he's trying to mitigate runoff from a newly built shed and from springs uphill. This will be a small planting, only 25 trees. Girl Scouts are available after school.
- April 1 - 1:00pm (finish by 4:00pm). Landowner Gavin Kline at 4890 Ore Bank Rd East, York. Participation from the York Master Watershed Stewards. Planting close to 100 trees. With at least 10 planters, we should finish quickly

Stormwater Management: What is EAC's role?

- Carolyn: Mike needs the grant situation in place before we do anything. The eroded creeks, were we to plant them before the grants, might have to be

reconfigured by Army Corps of Engineers, for instance. Site visits and meeting landowners might be nice, but we can't do that work at this stage. Need grants first to know extent of work that can be accomplished. No point in doing tree planting until stream repair is done. Many of the problems are much worse than we can repair with tree plantings.

- Potentially give wrong message to landowners, creates false expectation that we can fix things. We can help move debris, but we can't fix the trouble.
- Carolyn can talk with Mike to explain this.

Cool Creek Condo Association recycling: Waiting to hear from golf course people.

Volunteer Recruitment Process:

- Bill presents Lanc Conservancy's volunteer recruitment process. Advocates we adopt something like this for the Township. Also talked with Ted Evgeniadis, who is willing to put our needs in their newsletter.
- Kate:
 - We can add a volunteer tab on the Facebook page.
 - Go to **engage.hellamtownship.com**: preview of prelaunch site. EAC members should sign up there.
 - Recommends EAC has its own portal (umbrella) on this site. We could focus on tree planting. Take polls, attract volunteers, educate. EAC loves this tool.

Strategic Plan: Highlights—new things and things that need attention.

Next meeting—look at strategic plan.

Pollinator Festival: 6/17. Planning meeting this Friday at 2:00, Flinchbaughs.

No Mow May post for social media—Phyllis will send to Kate.