

**I. OPENING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Environmental Advisory Council meeting of Lower Saucon Township was called to order on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 7:00 PM, at 3700 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bethlehem, PA, with Sandra Yerger, Chairman, presiding.

**ROLL CALL: Members:** Sandra Yerger, Chairman; Laura Ray, Ted Beardsley, Allan Johnson, Haz Hijazi, Dru Germanoski (arrived at 7:12 p.m.); Absent: Tom Maxfield. **Associate Members:** Glenn Kaye, Thomas Carocci, Sarah Stanlick & David Jauregui; **Absent:** Michael Boyle. **Hellertown Liaison:** Terry Boos.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**II. OPEN SPACE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**A. PROPERTY UPDATES**

**1. Dravecz Parcel – Apple Street**

Mr. Beardsley said he went to visit Mrs. Dravecz and she wants to sell her house and build a smaller house on 2 acres of the property. He said there were some buildings there that could be turned into pavilions for picnics and additional parking. He didn't know if we should talk to Parks & Rec to see if they have any interest. He doesn't know where she wants to subdivide the two additional acres as they didn't get that far. Mrs. Yerger wasn't sure if the pond was in the conservation easement, so she'll have to run it past Chris Garges. Mr. Beardsley thinks she would like two acres near the out buildings. Mrs. Yerger will take this back to Chris Garges and see if we can get some definitive acreage and how much is left and where the property lines fall exactly. Once we determine if it's viable, then we should send it to Parks & Rec.

**2. Property No. 2016-02**

Mr. Beardsley said he went and looked at the ½ acre up the street. It's a steep property, and there are open areas around it, and he's not sure who owns that. The neighbors at the end of Cannon Drive use it to dump their yard waste. Mrs. Yerger said maybe she could get it reassessed if it's only ½ acre as it doesn't meet our minimum lot requirement. She put in an application, so Mrs. Yerger will meet with Chris Garges and he can give us some information and see if she needs variances.

**3.** Mr. Johnson asked about the timbering. Mrs. Yerger said the Smith's put an application in to the Conservation District but not to the Township. In the interim, we did get a copy of the Conservation District's application and it was deemed technically deficient so they are going to have to redo their conservation application.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. MS4 UPDATE**

Mrs. Yerger said MS4 is stormwater management procedures that municipalities with certain density have to go through, which is overseen by DEP. The Township got information saying we were deficient in some areas and we basically need to bring it up to speed to bring us into compliance. She worked with Chris Garges and staff and did get a lot of stormwater practices up on the website. They want us to have a workshop that we will have to develop and are asking the Township to come up with a community website. She needs to see if we have any volunteers to form a small committee to work with the Township to get through this process so we are in compliance. The due date is May 4, 2018. We will put it back on the agenda and get an educational committee together.

Mr. Germanoski said he can help out and do an educational workshop on why we need stormwater retention ponds, why rain barrels are important, groundwater infiltration, and some hydrology data. Mrs. Yerger said that's a good starting point and then maybe we can come up with some things landowners can do, i.e., rain gardens, rain barrels so everyone is a part of it. The one we may want

to do is the giant hole past the field hockey and get it vegetated and there are funding sources out there to help us. Mr. Boos said the school district had an environmental plan developed and that location was part of the outreach program and revegetation was part of the original, maybe we can help in getting it started. Mrs. Yerger said the more partners you have in a project the more the funding that is available and we may want to bring it to the partnership.

Mr. Carocci said our outreach efforts would be better spent on the open space education versus the MS4. Mrs. Yerger said she agrees, we have time for the MS4.

Ms. Stanlick said maybe she can help in getting it started. Mrs. Yerger said the more partners you have in a project the more funding is available and we may want to bring it to the SVP. Ms. Stanlick said maybe we want to have some committees on future things that keep coming up, rezoning, waste management, open space; and there could be a sub-committee that could do a whole year of planning. Mrs. Yerger said we could do that.

**B. OPEN SPACE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

Mrs. Yerger said she had some open space educational materials which were developed by the LVPC. They realized there is an economic dollar value attached to open space. They came up with tangible numbers. They hired some experts and crunched the numbers for two years as they kept getting asked by the County why are we investing money in this. They felt very strongly about this. If you don't like, it's still valuable, if you don't care about frogs, it's still valuable. It provides jobs, it provides farmland. They try to make it very simple. She wants to know if it's worthwhile to hand out, as we can do educational, it's not political. It's not saying vote for open space, all we're saying is this is the value of open space. You can hand it to your neighbor, but can't do it as an EAC. She will contact the LVPC and ask them to send us copies.

Mr. Carocci said it's a good idea, and he'd like to pass this out to his neighbors. She's consulted with our attorney, and we cannot advocate open space as a board. Mr. Jauregui said he thinks it's a good idea as it gives a level view of the program itself and how it benefits the environment. We can say these are the things we've done as an Open Space Committee.

Mrs. Yerger handed out the question that is going to be on the ballot in November so the resident knows exactly what it says. It's a continuation of the .025% for the next five years. The difference with this question is we're asking the voters to use \$867,861.00 to retire the debt on Polk Valley Park which was purchase as open space. We have a loan out there so our attorney suggested we use some of the open space money to retire that debt. So far it's been about \$1 million a year, it would take a year's collection to retire this debt and you would have four more years of additional funds.

Mr. Carocci said there's about \$4 million the account now, but we can't use that for this debt. This was submitted to the County in July. Ms. Stanlick said the continued part is very important as it already exists and has existed for the past ten years. Mr. Jauregui said we need to get this out and outline all the open space lands that were bought. Mr. Germanoski said it's not a new tax, but a continuation.

Mrs. Yerger said at the Apple Fest on October 1<sup>st</sup>, they will have hayrides from the schoolhouse to the Woodland Hills Preserve, and try to get people out there to see what we are preserving with the open space money. Mr. Germanoski would like to put a graphic together and Ms. Stanlick will help him. Ms. Stanlick asked if the EAC could have a Facebook page. Mrs. Yerger said she will find out and let them know.

Mrs. Yerger said she will not be at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. She will keep everyone posted.

**IV. DEVELOPER ITEMS**

**A. WILLIAM & JULIANA BOOKS – 3917 LOWER SAUCON ROAD – LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT**

Mrs. Yerger said this is a lot line adjustment. It's two existing properties with houses on them. They are trying to adjust the lot line so it moves away from the one driveway. The EAC agreed there is no environmental impact.

**V. UPDATES/REPORTS**

**A. TERRY BOOS REPORT – HELLERTOWN REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Boos said there's a presentation from a professor at Lehigh to Borough Council on removing green algae from the Grist Mill Pond in an environmentally sensitive way.

**B.** Mrs. Yerger said we had the native plant sale and it was successful.

**VI. OLD/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9, 2016 MINUTES**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Beardsley moved for approval of the August 9, 2016 minutes.

**SECOND BY:** Mrs. Yerger

**ROLL CALL:** 6-0 (Mr. Maxfield – Absent)

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- The EAC scheduled October 22<sup>nd</sup> for their adopt-a-road clean-up.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY:** Mr. Hijazi moved for adjournment. The time was 8:00 p.m.

**SECOND BY:** Mr. Beardsley

**ROLL CALL:** 6-0 (Mr. Maxfield – Absent)

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Sandra Yerger, Chair