

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
April 7, 2016**

Attendees: Present were Council members Lynn Rothman (Chair), Fran Cundall, Jack Gambino, Cathy Reuscher and Mike Topping.

Approval of March Minutes: After a short discussion with minor corrections, Fran moved and Cathy seconded approval; approved.

Citizens' Comments: None

Chair's Comments: Parks Director, Ralph Carp, has resigned. Lynn reported that the City Bike and Foot Trail will receive a 1.3 million grant and that City Council is considering restrictions on park usage concerning drinking alcohol, open fires, portable grills, parking on the grass, generators and swimming. Mike noted that the Mayor and other officials had held meetings with the residents of the Saucon Park area in order to gain feedback on many of the proposed changes. Most of the changes have been received positively, with the exception of fishing and swimming, which have some people upset. Cathy noted that the primary purpose of the restrictions appears to be to keep the number of out of town visitors under control.

Board Comments: Cathy announced that there will be an Earth Day celebration, clean up along the Monocacy and crafts and educational programs on April 24.

Sub Committee Reports:

Energy: No report.

Green Committee: Native plant sale at Unitarian Church April 30-May 1 and May 7 & 8.

On April 30, 100 trees will be planted in nine City parks to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Bethlehem's unification. This was made possible by a \$20,000 grant from TD Bank and was led by City Forester, Cindy Smith, Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife members, the Mount Airy Neighborhood Association and the Bethlehem 275th/100th Anniversary Committee.

Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition: No Report

Transportation: Sherri Penchishen from the City Health Bureau announced that we have been asked to present a workshop on our Pedestrian Enforcement Program at the upcoming PennDOT conference in Philadelphia. The presentation will begin with a history of the Citizen Traffic Advisory Committee (CTAC), established in 1999, and its accomplishments to date. The future includes Vision Zero (a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a highway system with zero fatalities or serious injuries), for which a press conference is anticipated in July.

External Committee Reports:

Zoning: No report.

City Planning: No report.

City Council: Mike noted that the main topic was the vacation of Graham St. from New St. to the rear of the Comfort Suites on the South Side. This would allow for a larger garage to serve the needs of the proposed Benner Building. Most people there were against the proposal for a number of reasons including increased air pollution and traffic congestion from the proposed garage and the loss of Graham St. as a bypass from New St. to the Lehigh University Area.

New Business:

City Council Coverage: Everyone agreed to consider a schedule for the year at the next meeting.

City Website: The Biographies for Fran and Jack are needed for the website.

Article 146 and the By-Laws: After a short discussion the members agreed that the EAC should be composed of 7 residents of the City and that the City Council shall select from themselves one non-voting member to attend meetings. Also, the EAC members shall elect their chairperson who would not be a member of City Council. (See the attached Letter to City Council dated: 5/6/16) Mike recommended the proposed changes; seconded by Jack; the proposed changes were recommended unanimously to City Council for their approval.

In discussing the By-Laws, the members changed notification procedures to include email; changed the meeting address to Illick's Mill instead of City Hall; clarified that meeting notes are called minutes; the Secretary for City Council is the City Clerk; the chairperson shall sign all correspondence from the EAC; and that the area of concern for the EAC is primarily the City of Bethlehem. (See the attached By-Laws) After discussion Cathy moved to approve the proposed by-law changes; seconded by Jack; approved unanimously on first reading.

Agenda for next Meeting: Lynn will try to ask someone from the Public Works Department to talk to us about storm water controls in the City.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.