

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
September 1, 2016**

Attendees: Present were Council members Fran Cundall, Jack Gambino, Kalyna Procyk, Lynn Rothman and Mike Topping. Brian Hillard, a Bethlehem resident, was also present.

Approval of July Minutes: Subject to a few minor corrections, Kalyna moved and Jack seconded approval; approved.

Approval of the August Minutes: After a few minor corrections, Kalyna moved and Jack seconded approval as amended; approved.

Chair's Comments: Lynn noted that **Cathy Reuscher** has decided to resign from the EAC due to the recent birth of her baby. The pedestrian bike bridge committee has divided into four sections: design concepts and environmental impacts; vision and strategy; use and needs assessment; and economic impact. Each group will try to develop goals and the means to obtain grant money to create a study/report on the project.

Citizens' Comments: Brian asked if we had been involved with the proposed **windmills** on the Water Authority property. Mike answered that the EAC had been involved with a review of a proposal and even had a field trip to the area with members of the Authority. (For further information see the minutes from March to July 2011) Brian expressed interest in becoming involved in the present proposal and noted that the Sierra Club appeared in favor of it. The affected township is presently reviewing the proposal and holding public meetings on it. Location, time of operation and speed of the windmills can affect any damage associated with the turbines. For the landowners in the area, any effect on property values is a major concern. Brian will contact the Sierra Club for an update on the status of the proposal.

Board Comments: Fran reported that there will be an **Urban Tree Workshop** hosted by 100 Trees and the Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW) at the Ice House on September 17. This will provide an opportunity to honor the 140+ volunteers who planted the trees in Bethlehem's parks and will include persons from the BBFW, Mount Airy Neighborhood Association and the Bethlehem 275/100 Anniversary Committee as well as the main speaker, Danielle Crumrine, Executive Director of Tree Pittsburg. Kalyna asked about **new members** of the EAC and recommended that we support Brian as a new member. He will send a resume with cover letter to Lynn for distribution. She noted that with Cathy's recent resignation, there are now two vacancies on the EAC. Kalyna mentioned that someone from the Food Co-op might also be a good choice. Mike reported that members of the Saucon Creek Watershed Association had met with Jane Persa from the parks department and Kristie Fach from Wildlands Conservancy to discuss the placement of **riparian buffer plantings** along the creek and instructing the parks workers not to mow up to the creek bank, but maintain a minimum 20 foot wide buffer with cross trails for access to the creek. Wildlands is in the process of obtaining a grant for plantings, which will include trees and bushes.

Sub Committee Reports:

Energy: No report

Green Committee: Their major effort was in watering the 100 trees recently planted in the city.

Transportation: No report.

External Committee Reports:

Zoning: No report.

City Planning: No report.

City Council: No report.

Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition: The fall get together will be held on September 8th.

Unfinished Business:

Bylaws: After a short discussion, Jack moved and Kalyna seconded final approval of the revised bylaws; approved.

Potential projects:

Recycling: The EAC reviewed photos of the proposed containers for Main and 3rd St. and noted that they appeared very similar to those already in use on the South Side. According to the recycling coordinator for the city, a Historic Board was in support of a different design for the containers, which would be more costly.

Comprehensive Parking Plan: The EAC had asked the City if a comprehensive parking plan was contemplated for the future of the South Side. Lynn will ask the Planning Director if any such study is under consideration to be presented to the Planning Commission for review.

Monocacy Creek Watershed Assoc.: They will hold a rain barrel workshop at Illick's Mill on September 10th to be run by the Penn State Master Gardeners & Master Watershed Stewards. The EAC was invited to take part in the program.

Embankment on Conestoga Street: After reviewing a map of the area, it was determined that the area in question was on the west side of Conestoga St. and probably private property.

New Business:

Weed Ordinance: Fran will look into other municipal ordinances, but wasn't optimistic on finding a cure. Her one recommendation was to remove invasive plants.

Environmental Policy & Planning: Kalyna is teaching a course at Muhlenberg and will present the students with a list of topics to write for their final project. Some ideas could include the PennEast Pipeline, windmills on the Water Authority lands, renewable energy incentives, air quality & transportation, comprehensive carbon footprint studies, walkability & greenway studies and sustainable energy studies in general. A primary criteria for any of the above projects is that the student has to show how the topic relates to the City of Bethlehem and/or the Lehigh Valley.

City Council Meetings: Lynn offered to go September 20. Hopefully Adam Waldron will be able to come to future meetings and report on City Council activities.

Election of a Vice Chair: After hours of debate and much fanfare, Jack was elected.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.