

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
October 5, 2017**

**Attendees:** Council members: Lynn Rothman, Jack Gambino, Brian Hillard and Mike Topping. Also in attendance was Kathy Fox.

**Approval of August Minutes:** After a number of corrections, Brian moved approval; seconded by Jack; approved.

**Approval of September Minutes:** Although a quorum was not present and therefore no actions were approved by those present, subjects were discussed and thus Brian moved and Jack seconded approval of the September minutes as presented; approved.

**Citizens' Comments:** None

**Chair's comments:** Lynn recently attended a Lehigh Valley Greenways Partnership meeting, which was well attended by many other agencies. She reminded everyone about the Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference scheduled at Lehigh University for October 17 and that members of the EAC and Saucon Creek Watershed Association are invited to help the City and Wildlands Conservancy staffs plant trees and bushes in a riparian buffer along the Saucon Creek within Saucon Park on October 20.

**Board comments:** Brian reported that Lantern Flies, a very destructive invasive, are in the area and should be removed whenever possible. They attack fruit and timber trees and are particularly fond of the Tree of Heaven, another invasive plant.

**Committee Reports:**

**BBFW:** Chris Sule, Superintendent of City Parks, met with Lynn and Martha Christine of BBFW and offered to support BBFW's efforts when planting on City property, including educating the public about the reasons for the various plantings.

**Transportation:** The CTAC meeting was canceled for October.

**External Committee Reports:**

**City Council** – None

**Planning** - None

**Zoning** - None

**Correspondence:** None

**Unfinished Business:**

**Pecha Kucha Event:** Brian gave a presentation at the event on the City's proposed Climate Action Plan and noted that the time moves very quickly when you only have 6 minutes and 40 seconds to give your talk. Andrew Goldman, Martha Christine and Joyce Marian also gave a presentation and received a good response from those who attended. Brian promoted the idea that a comprehensive plan should be developed to promote the preservation of open space before unchecked development turns the Lehigh Valley into one large urban sprawl. Mike noted that one way people can promote open space is to question everyone running for office especially at the county level. Find out how much they are willing to spend on open space and farmland preservation. In Northampton County, money is set aside for farmland preservation and open space as part of each year's budget. Also, each municipality receives some funding for parks & recreation purposes based on their population. This can be used for everything from creating parkland to construction of parking lots or

structures on parkland. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on November 17 at the Social Impact Center at the rear of Cantelmi's Hardware.

**Climate Action Plan for City of Bethlehem:** Lynn & Brian met with Council President Reynolds and Assistant City Clerk Robert Vidoni to discuss the structure of the Plan and decided to separate the overall group into small segments which would work on separate issues. The question is what part should the EAC play in the development of the Plan. At this point it appears that the EAC will review presentations of the various working groups involved and make recommendations. The EAC could also help develop goals and responsibilities of each group/task force. One concern Lynn had was the need to be transparent and have meetings and discussions open to the public in conformance with the Sunshine Laws of the State. This requires some structure in terms of times & place for meetings as well as the need for proper reporting of results.

Lynn initiated a discussion of the proposed BETHLEHEM CITY CAP WORKING GROUP ADVISORY COMMITTEES. Committee names, purpose, possible combinations and size were discussed, as well as the need for one person to be the leader/spokesperson for each committee. The need for help in terms of interns or others with research and writing skills as well as funding from grants was also discussed. Other cities, especially those similar in size and population to Bethlehem, will be contacted to find out how they have done similar work with volunteers, city staff and even paid consultants. It is anticipated that the first phase of the plan will be limited to the City, with later phases to include institutions and organizations outside the City. Due to time constraints, there is a need to prioritize tasks and goals for each group. After much discussion, the EAC agreed the following questions should be asked of other cities in their development of a climate action plan: How were they staffed, how were they funded, what was the time period for this work, what person or entity took charge of the work, was there a steering committee that decided on the structure for each of the working groups and how did they disseminate their findings to the public. The EAC was asked to review the draft and present any comments to Lynn before the next meeting.

**New Business:** Kathy reported that the new Bethlehem Food Co-op has hired a consultant and is in the process of choosing a site on the north side of the City.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm**