

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
June 1, 2017**

**Attendees:** Present were Council members Lynn Rothman, John Brunner, Brian Hillard, Kalyna Procyk and Mike Topping. Also in attendance was Roseanne Amano.

**Approval of April Minutes:** After some minor corrections Brian moved and Kalyna seconded approval as corrected; approved.

**Approval of May Minutes:** Due to the lack of a quorum, the May meeting had been cancelled.

**Chair's Comments:** Lynn went to the EAC conference in Lancaster and learned about the economic benefits to a community when proper stormwater controls are used. She also met with Rebecca Kennedy, who talked about the importance of green infrastructure and offered to come to our July meeting to talk about this subject.

**Board Comments and Announcements:** None

**Committee Reports:** Roseanne Amano offered to be the liaison from the "Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife" committee, which is chaired by Martha Christine who had been a member of the Green Committee.

**External Committee Reports:** None

**Unfinished Business:**

**Martin Tower Letter:** After a lengthy discussion concerning the purpose and location of a riparian area adjacent to the Monocacy Creek and the proximity of the Martin Tower property to the creek, Lynn agreed to write a letter to Darlene Heller, City Planning Director, referring to our letter of December 2015 and asking if a baseline inventory of the landscaping presently on the property could be made available to the EAC. Mike suggested that the approved landscaping plans on file in the Planning Office could be used for that purpose. Also Lynn will ask if the required monthly storm water discharge reports have been filed by the owner/developer to the DEP in compliance with the Clean Streams Act. Meanwhile, Brian offered to check how close the Martin Tower property is to the creek.

**Climate Action Plan:** Lynn and Brian are members of the City's Climate Action Plan Working Group. They presented the EAC members with sample climate action plans from various cities and a questionnaire, which are meant to help the Working Group members develop a plan for Bethlehem. At this point, they are looking for practices, policies or laws, which could reduce the City's carbon footprint. EAC members suggested possible areas to consider, which include: Adopting the Bethlehem Trail Plan; Improvements to pedestrian & bicycle movement and safety; Reducing motor vehicle emissions; Reducing energy use in residential and commercial buildings; Increased tree planting in public and private spaces; Purchasing local products; Reducing the use of carbon producing mowers etc. in areas where they may not be necessary; Promoting the use of renewable products; Recycling and the Implementation of an anti-idling campaign. Smart growth planning concepts and their comparison to the present day reliance on a major box store to draw customers to an area was also discussed.

**Future Meetings:** Rebecca Kennedy will speak at our July meeting about green infrastructure and David Masur from PennEnvironment will discuss the possibility of lead in water systems at our August meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.**