

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
September 7, 2017**

Attendees: Council members: Lynn Rothman, John Brunner, and Kalyna Procyk. Guests: Martha Christine, BBFW, and Kathy Fox, NCCDW Environmental Committee, Bethlehem Food Co-op

- 1) **Approval of Minutes:** No quorum was established at this meeting, therefore, the approval of August minutes will be postponed until October.
- 2) **Place citizens' comments on agenda.**
- 3) **Chair's comments & amendments to agenda**

Lynn Rothman passed out flyer from Lehigh Valley Greenways regarding their Partnership Meeting to be held on September 14, 2017, 9 am – 12 pm, Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth. R.S.V.P. to claire@delawareandlehigh.org

Lynn Rothman read e-mail received from Kerry Reider, Aquatic Ecologist at Wildlands Conservancy, notifying EAC of removal of dam on the East Branch of the Saucon Creek during the week of September 11, 2017. Rain date: September 18.

4) Board comments and announcements - None

5) Committee Reports

- a) **BBFW:** Martha Christine reported BBFW received their 5-year certification for the City. BBFW received \$10,000 grant and is designing and will be implementing a plan for native gardens, native trees, walking paths, etc. for the Bethlehem Rose Garden Park.

BBFW will give out awards for their photo contest on October 10.

Martha asked for help in addressing the issue of recent destruction of community gardens in Friendship Park and Westside Park by City Public Works Departments employees. Lynn will set up a meeting between Jane Persa, Chris Sule, herself and a representative of BBFW to discuss this situation.

- b) **Energy** – Lynn Rothman said that previously the EAC worked with the City to update solar ordinances. Technology has changed since that time and she said perhaps the EAC should once again work with the City to update Solar Regulations (ordinances). This would further the goals of the Climate Action plan.
- c) **Transportation** – Lynn attended the CTAC (Citizen Traffic Advisory Committee) general meeting. They discussed the City's successful Bike Share Program. The program lent 226 bicycles through August of this year. CAT (Coalition for Appropriate Transportation) will hold a Traffic Skills Class called "Cycling Savvy" on September 15 and 16.

6) External Committee Reports

- a) City Council – None
- b) Planning - None
- c) Zoning - None
- d) LVBTC – Lehigh Bird Town Coalition – Lynn Rothman attended their last meeting where

Chad Schwartz of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center spoke about their successful education programs for youth.

Backyards for Wildlife is holding a native plant sale on September 9 and 10th. On Sat, at 10 am, there will be a presentation by Kate Brandes about native plants to attract wildlife. All in attendance for presentation will get a free native plant!

The Salisbury Township EAC was represented by Kreg Ulry, who spoke about updating their Shade Tree Ordinance, rain barrel workshops and further solutions for meeting the goals of the MS-4 regulations.

Lynn suggested that we keep in touch with Kreg.

7) **Correspondence** - None

8) **Unfinished Business**

- a) **PechaKucha Event**– September 21, 2017 at 6 p.m. – Social Impact Center, 520 Evans Street, Bethlehem. Tom Moroz monitoring.
- b) **Climate Action Plan Working Group** – Discussion of EAC’s roll in Climate Action Plan Working Group. John suggested concentrating on Climate Resiliency. Questions re: how City will implement the plan, need for changing ordinances to accommodate green infrastructure. Discussed Transition Towns – sustainable towns (Media, PA as an example) and what components the City could adopt. More discussion will follow after the next Working Group meeting scheduled for September 13, 2017 at 3:30 pm at City Hall.
- c) **Bethlehem Food Co-op** – membership has grown to 440 households and Kathy spoke of the possibility of a big announcement when they reach 450 member households. She encouraged those who are not members to join. Co-op is holding an event called “Main Street Mixer” on Wed., September 13, 5:30 – 7:30 at Bethlehem Commons in partnership with Brew Works, Franklin Hills Vineyards and Captured LV Escape Room. First 5 new members-owners who sign up that evening will get \$100 gift certificate from Captured LV Escape Room, and gifts from Franklin Hills and Brew Works.

9) **New Business**

Kalyna suggested the City partner with the community affected by the City’s proposed wind turbines by sharing the profits with the community, so the community get some benefit from the wind turbines.

10) **Agenda for next meeting**

Speaker – John Brunner suggested that we put off a speaker in order to further discuss the EAC’s role in the Climate Action Plan Working Group. EAC wants to be involved in research on specific topics. But which topics? More answers may come after the September 13th Working Group meeting.

Lynn to table asking Jodi Schnalzer, City Water Control Manager, to speak until another time.

11) **Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:17 pm**

Minutes submitted by Kathy Fox.