

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
May 3, 2018**

Attendees: Council members: Lynn Rothman, Elisabeth Cichonski, Kathy Fox, Jack Gambino, Brian Hilliard and Mike Topping. Also in attendance: Amy True, Ed Gallagher and Katrina Prutzman.

Approval of April Minutes: Moved by Elisabeth; seconded by Kathy; approved.

Chair's Comments: Lynn noted that John Brunner has moved from the City and therefore resigned his position on the Board and that Elisabeth Cichonski has just been appointed to the Board. Thus, we still need another member for the Board to make a total of seven members. She reminded everyone that the Allentown Brew Works will hold a "Green Drinks" night on May 9th where Solar Energy will be discussed. The Spring/Summer Bethlehem bulletin mentioned the EAC and its work. The Lehigh Valley Birdtown Coalition (LVBTC) will hold a meeting this Saturday along with the annual native plant sale held at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 424 Center Street.

Board Comments: Mike reported that the shad run in Delaware is very active with many fish being caught.

Committee Reports:

Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW): No Report

Transportation: The Citizens Traffic Advisory Committee (CTAC) meets on the first Tuesday of the month and Lynn asked if anyone could cover those meetings.

External Committee Reports:

City Council: None

Planning & Zoning : Lynn has been appointed as an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB).

Correspondence: None

Unfinished Business:

City of Bethlehem Climate Action Plan (CAP): Lynn noted that the April 5th EAC meeting appeared to be a success and she presented a number of survey sheets that Elisabeth offered to read and prepare a report on her findings for our next meeting. Some of the surveys were not filled in on the back side so that some of the information may be underreported. Jack stated that he had national and state survey data concerning public opinion on climate change which was developed at Muhlenberg College. Jack will see if he can use their information or expertise in developing a survey for Bethlehem.

Councilman Reynolds will be holding a meeting next week with Dan Sobrinski to discuss how much of the plan can be done internally and how much will need the help

of an outside consultant. The City of Easton has completed some of the work on their CAP using WSP and the Nature Center as outside consultants. Lynn suggested these avenues could be a possibility for Bethlehem. Once we're further along in the process, we could possibly work with the City of Easton to our mutual benefit. Brian recommended that we have a facebook presence with a logo to help people identify us as well as exchange data with us. The City has a website which identifies the various city boards, commissions and authorities, including the EAC. The webmaster is Blake Kleintop, who posts our minutes and member resumes, but he is only a part time employee. A discussion developed concerning the need for outreach to the community, explaining what we do and how we operate as a recommending body to the City Council. Along with electronic communication, a brochure could be developed to hand out at meetings and events that identifies us; describes our purpose; lists meeting dates, locations and subject matter; and how others can contact us and join in the process. Amy True offered to draft a brochure for review at our next meeting. Regarding future meetings, everyone agreed that there should be some structure in the presentation of subject matter such as a proposed regulation or activity.

Solar Setbacks: Brian stated that he had contacted Chief Baer from the Bethlehem Fire Department, which has to deal with the problem on a daily basis; and the Zoning Officer, who will have to enforce the ordinance. Bear expressed the desire to model the city ordinance to align with the International Fire Code. He was seeking three foot setbacks on either side of the roof and three foot setbacks from the ridge. Many municipalities have already made the necessary changes to their ordinances and the City will probably follow their lead. Jack indicated that one problem was that the Zoning Ordinance now prohibits solar panels to be seen from an adjacent street, whereas, in the past only the Historic Districts would have such regulations.

Community Scale GHG Inventory: Brian gave a presentation on the "Greenhouse Gas Protocol" developed in conjunction with World Resources Institute, C40 Cities and ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability. (See the attached)

New Business:

Report on EAC Conference: Brian reported on the recent conference where many of the State EACs met to discuss land preservation and renewable energy including the following: advocacy at the state level, job creation, grant availability, state enabling legislation and various ways to reduce costs while introducing wind and solar energy alternatives. He will try to communicate with local Lehigh Valley EACs to see what they have been involved with and see if we can work together on common activities.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM