

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
March 7, 2019**

Attendees:

Council Members: Lynn Rothman, Mike Topping, Kathy Fox, Beth Behrend, Brian Hillard
Community Members: Martha Christine (BBFW), Roseanne Amano (BBFW), Bethlehem City Council Representative Dr. Paige Van Wirt, Jackie Cook, Julie Piñeiro, Josie Miserendino, Elke Rockwell, Abbey Sauerwine, Katie Barr, Lauren Fosbenner, Will Carpenter, Brian Treston, Katrina Prutzman, Ben Guthrie

Call To Order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of February minutes: Motion made by Brian, seconded by Mike. Motion passed unanimously.

Place citizens' comments on agenda:

Martha Christine, co-leader of Citizens Climate Lobby-Lehigh Valley asked us to individually support the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act (HR763) by emailing (<https://wild.house.gov/>) or calling Congresswoman Susan Wild to thank her for co-sponsoring the bill. The bill calls for a steadily increasing fee placed on fossil fuels with all the collected money returned equally to households in the form of a monthly dividend check. <https://energyinnovationact.org/>

Chair's comments & amendments to agenda:

- As suggested by the EAC, a new rule has been added to pavilion rental agreements in City Parks to prohibit glitter and confetti and requiring disposal of balloons.
- Jean Persa, Director of Recreation, retiring at end of March after 40 years of service
- March 10th – Sierra Club sponsoring a Go Green fundraiser event on Sunday afternoon at Phantoms game. \$3 for every ticket goes to the local Sierra Club. See Lynn for further info.
- Amy True offered to help make brochure regarding EAC and sustainability. Hopefully get something completed by end of summer.

Board comments and announcements:

- Mike Topping – Morning Call article mentioned HR763 and another article regarding climate change. Written by local college professors.

Committee reports:

- **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW):** Martha presented a PowerPoint regarding BBWF to the group. What they have accomplished, what they are about and future plans.
 - BBFW in 2019
 - Apply for DCNR grant for Rose Garden Implementation
 - Hold 2nd wildlife photography contest
 - Help develop content related to our mission in the Bethlehem Climate Action Plan
 - Upcoming Events – check Facebook
 - Native plant sale May 4, 5 – Unitarian Church 424 Center St.
 - Arbor Day at the Rose Garden – April 26
 - Monocacy Creek Day – May 11, 10-12 AM
 - BBFW committee was concerned about some of the open spaces the city owned and putting them up for public sale. Concern was why not leave the spaces as green spaces with natural plants/vegetation etc. BBFW submitted draft to EAC regarding the open spaces. Please submit any EAC comments to Martha by March 20th.

- **Waste Reduction Committee:**
 - The bag reduction proposal has been sent to the city. Awaiting response.

- **Energy Committee:**
 - Worked on memo for solar panels for new facilities and retrofitted buildings.
 - Reaching out to local company who is very active in sustainability and has implemented solar panels on their business roof.
 - Will have report for the EAC in April.

- **Electric Vehicle Recommendation:**
 - Fleet Electrification Assessment completed. Electric vehicle push for the city to integrate electric vehicles into their fleet. City fleet is not efficient.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Nicas