

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
November 4, 2015**

**Attendees:** Present were Council members George Yasko (Chair), Fran Cundall, Lynn Rothman, Jack Gambino, Kalyna Procyk and Mike Topping.

**Approval of October Minutes:** Fran moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2015 with one correction; seconded by Lynn; approved.

**Board Comments and Announcements:** Lynn went to the Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference at Lehigh and thought it was very good. She attended a talk on riparian buffers and obtained some sample ordinances, which the EAC might study for future action. George & Mike noted that the EAC had promoted and ultimately the City had passed a riparian buffer ordinance which called for a 20 foot wide riparian buffer along the creeks in the City. This was a minimal restriction and yet was still hard to get approved. Most ordinances call for minimum 100 to 150 foot wide buffer. The members agreed this is something that should be studied for possible changes to the existing ordinance.

**Sub Committee Reports:**

**Energy:** Nothing new.

**Green Committee:** Nothing new.

**Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition:** No report, next meeting will be in March.

**Transportation:** Lynn reported that the City is moving forward with its **Bike Share program** in the City – Lehigh has one, but it only covers the Lehigh campus. To start, the city library and a bike shop on the South Side have been chosen as locations to anchor the program, which will include ten adult bikes, five children’s bikes and a few bikes with trailers. A discussion ensued on the appropriateness of having to leave your ID with the attendant if you want to borrow a bike. The members agreed that this was not a reasonable requirement and recommended that a credit card or cash deposit be used instead to guarantee the return of the bike. It was noted that bikes in this type of program are seldom, if ever, stolen. Sometime in the future, LANTA may also start a bike share program.

**PennDOT** is embarking on projects to improve the Schoenersville Road Corridor and Easton Avenue. Improvements will include retiming traffic lights, adding bike share lanes and redesigning some intersections, which should help pedestrians cross these areas.

**Envision Lehigh Valley** talked about the proposed FEDEX trucking terminal and the need for improved pollution controls, especially at truck stops where idling can take place for extended periods of time.

**External Committee Reports:**

**Zoning:** No report.

**City Planning:** No report.

**City Council:** Members noted that the rezoning of the Martin Tower property will probably result in a change to the existing landscaping in the area and that when new plans are reviewed by the planning commission, the total amount of hard surfaces and landscaping should also be subject to review by the EAC for a recommendation to the planning commission.

**Old Business:**

**Japanese Knotweed:** George had asked Ralph Carp about what could be done concerning the knotweed problem along Route 378. Ralph had indicated that this strain of knotweed was a particular problem to deal with and so far has not indicated a solution.

**Allentown EAC Meeting:** Nothing to report.

**Milkweed and Meadows:** According to reports in the newspapers, It appears that the City will not intrude into the meadow area behind the ice rink with a new horse barn and paddock. The members agreed that it would be a good idea to stay on top of any spraying or mowing of meadow areas in the City especially riparian buffers and other areas where milkweed and other plants grow for the benefit of our varied wildlife.

**EAC Memberships:** George reminded everyone that nominations need to be made for replacing members whose terms expire in January 2016. He stated that he will not serve another term, but will stay on the Energy Committee. Thus, the EAC needs to recommend a new chair. After discussion, Lynn offered to become chairperson for 2016, which everyone agreed was a great idea.

**New Business:** George reminded everyone that they should look to identify any new goals for the EAC and that one such goal would be to provide a budget request to City Council.

**Future Meetings in 2016:** Members agreed to meet at 6:00 PM on the first Thursday of the month at a place to be determined after consulting with Ralph.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15.**

**Next Meeting will be held at the DAR House on December 2, 2015.** This meeting will be immediately followed by our annual holiday meeting at the Brew Works with all affiliated past and present EAC members and mates invited to attend.