

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
December 2, 2015**

**Attendees:** Present were Council members George Yasko (Chair), Fran Cundall, Jack Gambino, Kalyna Procyk, Cathy Reuscher, Lynn Rothman and Mike Topping. Also present were Linda Freedman and Martin Romeril.

**Approval of November Minutes:** After a short discussion, Fran moved to approve the minutes with corrections; seconded by Jack; approved.

**Citizens Comments:** Linda thanked the members for their advice and encouragement for her concern for the protection of meadow areas and the establishment of a horse paddock and barn behind the ice rink. She indicated that the city is now considering an area near the compost center, possibly between the little league fields and the miniature golf course, as an alternative for the horse facilities, which she felt would be a better location.

**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 CAT has developed a Bethlehem By Bicycle Map that includes bike trails, dedicated bike lanes and bicycle friendly roads. She will find out how to access this map by the next meeting.

**External Committee Reports:**

**Zoning:** No report.

**City Planning:** No report.

**City Council:** Cathy reported that the proposed Martin Tower rezoning is the main concern. Also, signage for the Monocacy Way has been approved and plans for renewable energy on the Bethlehem Watershed property are under review. Wind turbines had been under study for the area for the last two years. The members noted that technology has improved over the years including small turbines which can be placed in the ridge of a roof.

**Old Business:**

**EAC Reviews:** The EAC discussed the importance of timely and informed reviews by the EAC on matters, which can involve the environment. Site plans for new developments as well as ordinance regulations, which include information on landscaping or lot coverage, should be made available to the EAC for review prior to final review and approval by the Planning Commission and/or City Council.

**EAC Memberships:** Cathy indicated that her EAC membership as a City Council member will end this month, but that she would like to continue on the EAC as a regular member starting in January. One more member will still need to be chosen by City Council to take George's place on the EAC.

**New Business:**

**Lehigh River:** Mike reminded everyone that they can vote for the Lehigh River as the Pennsylvania River of the Year at [WWW.PARIVEROFTHEYEAR.ORG](http://WWW.PARIVEROFTHEYEAR.ORG) until December 14.

**Martin Tower:** Martin described his concerns for the potential development of the Martin Tower site, potentially including a large gas station, which he felt would include an excessive amount of pavement and the removal of many large trees. He also expressed concern for the type of uses, including chemical manufacturing uses, which could affect the Monocacy Creek, which lies downhill from the site. He recommended that the area be bought by the City and retained as open space or parkland. After further discussion, the members agreed that they should prepare a list of concerns to present to City Council and the Administration. Additional pavement, loss of mature trees, adequate buffers and the possibility of toxic materials reaching the Monocacy Creek were listed as possible concerns. They agreed that they should have the opportunity to study any plans and proposed ordinances, which will affect this property and decided to hold a special meeting at the Illick's Mill Environmental Center at 8 AM, December 16<sup>th</sup>, to develop a list of possible recommendations concerning the proposed use and development of this property.

**PPL Tree Trimming:** Fran expressed frustration and concern for the amount of tree trimming PPL now authorizes adjacent to their power lines along city streets. Everyone joined in with examples of apparently excessive trimming to the point where some trees were so misshaped that they were removed entirely. The City Forester will be contacted to see if anything can be done to help improve this situation.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30.**

**Next Meeting will be held at the Illick's Mill Environmental Center at 8 AM, on December 16, 2015.** Future meetings are scheduled to meet at the Environmental Center at 6 PM on the first Thursday of the month.