

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council**  
**General Meeting**  
**March 3, 2016**

**Attendees:** Present were Council members Lynn Rothman (Chair), Fran Cundall, Jack Gambino, Kalyna Procyk, Cathy Reuscher and Mike Topping. Sarah Gosdin was also in attendance.

**Approval of February Minutes:** After a short discussion with minor corrections, Fran moved and Cathy seconded approval; approved.

**Citizens Comments:** None

**Chair's Comments:** Parks Director, Ralph Carp, could not make this meeting.

**Board Comments:** Mike reported that the Mayor had received a letter from the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) asking for input concerning fishing regulations for Saucon Park. Three options were presented by the PFBC: implement all tackle, including bait, use in the Saucon; implement trout stocking in the Saucon; and/or designate a portion of the stream as a Children's Area. Although the stocking and Children's Area options had some merit, Mike reminded the EAC members of the letter written by the EAC to Ralph Carp on this matter on 10/3/12. In this letter the EAC supported all tackle use in the Saucon. (Note: on 12/11/12, Mayor Callahan then wrote a similar letter to the PFBC.) Mike noted that 117 members of local sportsmens' clubs had signed a petition last year asking the PFBC to allow all tackle use in the Saucon and it appears that the PFBC is more open to this change than in the past. He recommended that the EAC simply continue its support of all tackle use and after a lengthy discussion, the EAC agreed to write a letter of support for all tackle use to the Mayor. See the attached.

**Sub Committee Reports:**

**Energy:** No report.

**Green Committee:** There will be a meeting next week. Native plant sale at Unitarian Church April 30-May 1 and May 7 & 8.

**Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition:** Biannual meeting was held on 3/2/16 led by Steven Saffier, Program Manager, Audubon Pennsylvania. Bird Town is a working partnership of Audubon and PA municipalities to promote conservation and community-based actions to create a healthy, more sustainable environment for birds and people. LVBTC tries to assist members to cross promote programs and gain information on subjects of common interest. Contact Barbara Malt to advertise programs on Meet-up. Kreg Ulery, from the Salisbury EAC, will be the new Chair as of 7/1/16. The Salisbury EAC has been involved in the MS4 Stormwater Program and has a stormwater education program with workshops on rain gardens, cleaning stormwater basins, using goats to remove Japanese Knotweed and changing detention ponds to retention ponds. They also promote the use of kiosks with information around projects to educate the public.

**Transportation:** Lynn attended the Citizens Traffic Advisory Committee (CTAC) meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. She reported on Vision Zero, a multi-national road traffic safety project that aims to achieve a highway system with no fatalities or serious injuries in road traffic. A core principle is that "Life and health can never be exchanged for other benefits within a society" rather than a

comparison between costs and benefits, where a monetary value is placed on life and health. CTAC hopes to have the Mayor publicly announce Bethlehem is a Vision Zero City in May or June.

**To find the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation (CAT) BIKE MAP:** LVCAT.ORG; go to MISSION; go to LOVE A TRAIL and click link to the map.

**Fahy Bridge:** will be closed from 7pm to 6 am during construction. The contractors will try to wait until later in the evening when possible.

#### **External Committee Reports:**

**Zoning:** No report.

**City Planning:** No report.

**City Council:** Jack reported that he was reappointed to the EAC and that Lynn was commended for her leadership and appointed Chair of the EAC. He noted the main topic of discussion was the proposed parking deck at Third & New Streets, which was opposed by many of those present at the meeting. Exorbitant costs, existing parking spaces, questionable 300 feet distance criteria for parking access, congestion, increased air pollution and overall transparency of project review were all mentioned. Kalyna reminded everyone that we should only refer to environmental issues when this type of subject is discussed. Alternate transportation modes instead of simply providing car parking spaces and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements, which would make the proposed building more “green” (building materials, solar energy, etc.), are areas where the EAC agreed they could make recommendations to the City Council and Administration. Kalyna offered to start a letter with some recommendations for the EAC to consider.

**Old Business:** Kalyna reported that she had talked to Michael Conway the new Recycling Director, who informed her that there were no immediate plans to install recycling containers downtown. Historic considerations and cost seemed to be the biggest hurdles. The High Line at Steelstacks, however, does have “beautiful” trash and recycling containers. She also noted that the recycling market has been bad for the last 18 months so this has made recycling efforts difficult. Especially contaminated materials, such as pizza boxes, are no longer desirable for recycling. Everyone commented on the difficulty in getting people on college campuses as well as other work locations to comply with the proper use of recycling containers.

#### **New Business:**

**Stormwater Presentation:** The EAC agreed that at a future meeting someone from the City Engineering Department should present an overview of how stormwater is controlled in the City.

**City Website:** The Biographies for Fran and Jack are needed for the website.

**By-Laws:** The By-Laws will be reviewed at our next Meeting.

**Meeting Times:** Members agreed that future meetings will begin at 7:00 PM.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 PM.**