

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council**  
**General Meeting**  
**June 2, 2016**

**Attendees:** Present were Council members Fran Cundall, Jack Gambino, Cathy Reuscher and Mike Topping. In Lynn Rothman's absence, Jack chaired the meeting.

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

**Citizens' Comments:** None

**Chair's Comments:** Lynn sent the following information concerning the possibility of lead in our drinking water and built environment.

Ed Boscola, Director of Water and Sewer Services, provided the following:

1. Water utilities have known about this potential problem for decades and have phased out much of the plumbing with lead.
2. The City follows EPA and DEP guidelines on monitoring and controlling lead, which includes a sampling and corrosion control program.
3. The City will sample at least 50 homes this summer with known lead service lines or other lead plumbing fixtures.
4. The City advises all customers who are not part of the test group and are concerned about lead to contact a certified water testing laboratory.
5. Since the early 1990's Bethlehem water has consistently tested below the EPA action level of 15 ppb for lead.

Jessica Lucas, Director, Environmental Programs for the City noted that she could provide lead paint information. Jack offered to put together a list of questions concerning the lead testing done in the City. Some questions would include who does the testing, where is it done, how often is it done, what efforts are made to include every home, including rental properties, in the City on some kind of systematic schedule and is there a requirement for testing as part of a Certificate of Occupancy for a homeowner or renter. Also, if lead is detected, are there any requirements for disclosure and/or remediation. Mike stated that years ago the testing was done in the water lab on the third floor of the Public Safety (front) Building by City Staff. Now it appears that some testing is done by outside water testing laboratories and the question is then who pays for this service, especially in poorer neighborhoods.

**Board Comments:** Cathy reminded everyone that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Step Outdoors Lehigh Valley program will be held this weekend at Steel Stacks. If she can't attend next month's meeting, she will have a key available for Lynn to enter the building.

**Sub Committee Reports:**

**Energy:** No report.

**Green Committee:** No report.

**Transportation:** Cathy reported that Kristen Wenrich from the Health Bureau has developed a bike share program similar to Pottsville's and is in the process of talking to St. Luke's concerning funding. The bikes would likely be available at the City Center Library and somewhere on the South Side.

**External Committee Reports:**

**Zoning:** No report.

**City Planning:** No report.

**City Council:** Fran noted that there was a discussion concerning bike racks and the possibility of contracting with local artists through Arts Quest to design and construct them.

**Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition:** No Report

**Unfinished Business:** After a short discussion, the EAC members present voted to recommend approval of the proposed changes to Article 146 and final approval of the proposed By-Laws. Both motions were moved by Fran; seconded by Cathy; and approved unanimously.

**New Business:**

**City Council Meeting Coverage:** Jack will cover the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. July meetings will be decided at the next EAC meeting.

**Vice Chair:** Since only four members were present, it was decided to table voting for a Vice Chair until the next meeting.

**Solar Power Incentives:** There had been some discussion in the past, but nothing came of it. Cathy suggested that we contact other cities and solar power businesses to see what is available. Jack noted that on his last trip to Dhaka, it appeared that almost every building had some solar power component on the roof since the sun is so prevalent there.

**Agenda for next meeting:** Lead in drinking water and paint and solar power incentives will be discussed.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 PM.**