

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
August 5, 2015**

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

Approval of July Minutes: After a number of minor corrections, Jack moved to approve the corrected minutes; seconded by Fran; approved.

Announcements: City Council will appoint one of their members to the EAC, probably sometime after the November election. Kalyna noted that the State has recently published a new guide for EACs and that she will email it to the members. Although some members of the EAC remained skeptical of city council members also being members of the EAC, they also recognized that the closer we work with City Council, the better the chance of timely and informative communication between both bodies. During discussion, it was noted that when the EAC takes a position on a subject, George, as chairman, writes a letter to the City Clerk who then distributes the letter to City Council and also the Mayor and/or members of his staff when appropriate.

Sub Committee Reports:

Energy: Although the EAC was never told by the Administration or City Council, the proposed solar ordinance was approved with some minor changes on April 7, 2015.

Green: The BBFW of the Green Committee met with the Parks & Recreation Committee of City Council as reported last month and learned that the City has applied for a grant for a tree census study and also applied for money for the signs promoted by the National Wildlife Federation for certified gardens in the City as well as a sign certifying the City as a Community Wildlife Habitat which is a status the City has attained, but needs to reestablish each year.

Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition: Lynn reported that the Audubon Society meets twice a year, (September and March), and she will try and go to the September meeting. Also, there is a Lehigh Valley Conservation Landscape organization, one of seven in the State promoted by DCNR, which will meet at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. One of the primary purposes of this group is to promote the local greenways and the use of open space as a recreational as well as economic development resource in the Valley. Clair Sadler from Audubon and Dan Kunkle from the Nature Center are scheduled to give presentations.

Transportation: The last meeting was cancelled.

External Committee Reports:

Zoning: No report. Mike described the different responsibilities and authorities between the work done by the Zoning Officer, Planning Director, Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission, City Council, and the Mayor concerning the regulation and enforcement of the development process in the City. After discussion, the EAC agreed that any project that had the potential to affect the environment should be brought to the attention of the EAC by the Administration or City Council as soon as possible so that we would have adequate time to review

the project and present a recommendation to the Administration and/or City Council as appropriate.

Planning: No report.

City Council: George will send a letter to the City Clerk and Administration requesting timely notice of projects, which may affect the environment.

Old Business:

Monocacy Creek Assessment: Contracts should be signed soon so that the work can begin later this year.

Monocacy Park Project: This plan is under review and due to the amount of work and planning involved and the proposed public meetings with plans and brochures necessary to explain the project, its implementation will be delayed until next year.

PennEast Pipeling: Lynn presented the members with a report by the Bethlehem Authority consultant concerning the proposed pipeline and recommended that everyone become familiar with it. Jack recommended that this be brought up at our next meeting for discussion and that Stephen Repasch be invited to that meeting.

New Business: George listed the following as possible areas of study/concern for the EAC:

- a. Anti-idling campaign to reduce ozone pollution by public and City owned vehicles.
- b. Provide incentives for employees to reduce vehicle trips and use alternative means of transportation.
- c. Provide recycling options for the downtown in addition to current trash collection bins.
- d. Provide for composting of food waste with or without fees.
- e. Banning the use of Styrofoam & styrene food containers.
- f. Urge all institutional food service operations to donate food to the poor.
- g. Require all food waste to be composted.
- h. Ban the use of bottled water.
- i. Ban the use of plastic bags.

Of the items listed, the members agreed that bottled water in the City was a waste of money since the Bethlehem water is so good and that an education program explaining that tap water is as good if not better than bottled water would be a good program to promote. They also recognized that not all tap water was as good as Bethlehem's and therefore, sometimes, bottled water is necessary. Another item was the provision of recycling containers in the downtown areas. Container color coding, proper hole sizes, frequent pickup and proper labeling were all mentioned as ways to make this possible. This item was also agreed upon as a possible area of study by the EAC.

Next Meeting: September 2, 2015.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.