

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

X BRANT X GALLAGHER X GEASLAND
X HEUCKEROTH X MERKLE X PICKER X SHREERO

LIAISONS:

X LEE, Staff X BOYLE-NESTER, BOS Liaison

Also present: Krista Heinrich, Township Engineer; Linda Doll, Township Resident, Eli Glick, Township Resident

1. CALL TO ORDER – meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

2. OLD ITEMS: Follow Up items from Jan, 2018 meeting

- a. McCarthy Basin Update – Ms. Lee started off with the McCarthy Basin update by sharing with the group that the Township P & R Director, Engineer, and the PW Director met with a private consulting firm to discuss prices and maintenance of McCarthy Basin, so that an experienced group who knows how to properly identify and handle invasive plants as well as native plants maintains the site. Ms. Lee also shared that immediate recommendations for current conditions were followed up by the PW Department after the meeting. The EAB requested that the quote and report of maintenance responsibilities also be shared with the EAB prior to work starting. Ms. Lee responded that she would share with the EAB on what the maintenance plans will be once the Township receives more detail.

Ms. Glick, Township resident, asked who the consultant group was that met with the Township, to which Ms. Heinrich responded that the Township met with Shearon. Mr. Glick asked why Natural Lands Trust wasn't consulted, to which, Ms. Lee responded that this was just a preliminary meeting to get an understanding of pricing and work involved. Depending on what the costs are quoted, the Township may have to undergo other processes to get a consultant on board as required by quote and bidding thresholds.

Mr. Glick asked why he was not invited to the meeting, to which Ms. Lee responded that this was simply a time for the consultant to come out, take notes and make observations to come back to the Township with quotes for proper maintenance.

Ms. Doll asked what the maintenance would consist of, to which Ms. Lee responded that it would consist of invasive control and landscape/basin maintenance for proper stormwater management.

Ms. Merkle volunteered to be the EAB liaison to the McCarthy Basin maintenance efforts as she is usually available during work hours and would like to be involved in the efforts of the Township. Ms. Lee said that she will pass that information onto the P&R Director to keep in mind for future meetings related to McCarthy Basin.

b. Engineer Updates

- i. Miles Park improvement – Ms. Heinrich provided the group with an update of the plans for the Miles Park field improvements. She iterated that the plans call for five rain gardens as stormwater management controls.

There were questions and discussions about the specifics of the rain gardens and their maintenance plans. The EAB members are always supportive of naturalized methods of stormwater management measures but do have concerns about proper maintenance as that has always been an issue with other basins and meadows, particularly with the McCarthy basin.

Upon further discussions of the concerns of the rain garden maintenance as well as concerns over lack of protective fencing around it to keep people out, Ms. Lee recommended that she and the Township Engineer work to get a list of plant species proposed for the rain garden along with a maintenance plan for the EAB to review and ask that the P & R Director make sure the maintenance schedule is following properly.

The EAB also asked if there could be any kind of educational signs in the future for the rain gardens, to which Ms. Lee responded that she will speak with the P&R Director about.

- ii. Intersection improvements – Ms. Heinrich provided the group with an update on where the Township is with regards to the four intersection improvements. Militia Hill/Stenton intersection is currently under construction, which is the smallest work involved of the four intersections. The Cricket/Stenton/Flourtown intersection is currently out for bid. Stormwater management for this intersection include a swale.

There were concerns over loss of trees as part of the intersection improvements, to which Ms. Lee responded that she is looking into possibilities of planting trees on some of the FEMA properties (pending FEMA's approval) and also looking into the Treevitalize grant program to obtain funding to purchase canopy trees to serve as riparian buffers and methods of stormwater management.

Ms. Heinrich also shared that there are plans for a rain garden on the north side of Joshua Road at the Stenton and Joshua intersection improvement, to which the group had some concerns due to the known flow of muddy waters that flow down Joshua Road. The EAB again iterated the importance and value of rain gardens, but voiced further concerns about maintenance and the burden and extra work it can create for the PW department.

- c. Recycling Ordinance – Ms. Lee shared that she does not have any updates on enforcement processes by other municipalities. Upon further discussions, the group created a subcommittee made up of Ms. Shreero, Ms. Heuckroth, and Ms. Merkle to review the language of the ordinance with Ms. Lee, get it reviewed by the Township solicitor, for full review by the EAB at the next meeting. Ms. Lee will coordinate an email group with the subcommittee and also a subcommittee meeting in the next couple of weeks to organize a draft by the May EAB meeting.

3. New Items

- a. Article on ME2 Routes – The group discussed the article that was circulated concerning the ME2 route and the potential for ecological impact that the pipeline projects have on the local environment. Although the ME2 does not currently traverse through Whitemarsh Township today, it does not mean that other pipelines could traverse through our community in the future, so the group discussed the importance of proactive readiness such as the Title 35 as suggested in the article. Ms. Lee will be looking into Title 35 to see what other municipalities have supported it and the language/method it used for support and report back to the EAB at the May meeting.
- b. STAR Affiliate – the group had a brief discussion on the article about STAR affiliation that was circulated via email and the benefits that it may be to the Township and the residents.
- c. Renewable Energy Commitment – Ms. Merkle gave a presentation on the “Ready for 100” commitment that she is championing as a member of the EAB. She provided the group with the obvious benefits of renewable energy and the steps that the Township can take towards it. She asked if she could invite a Professor from Haverford who gives presentations on this topic to the next EAB meeting for a brief presentation, to which all the EAB members were open.

4. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2017 MEETING MINUTES

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Wells St. Clean Up – Sat., April 14
- b. Earth Day 2018 – Sunday, April 22
- c. Township Day – Sat., April 28 – Ms. Merkle volunteered to manage an EAB table at Township Day. In addition, the Township will continue with the Recycling Bin contest to be displayed at Township Day. Ms. Heuckroth made the motion to continue with the recycling bin contest, seconded by Ms. Shreero. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. EAB Conference – Sat., April 14 – Ms. Merkle is registered for this event. Any other EAB members who would like to attend should let Ms. Lee know.
- e. Comprehensive Plan Workshop on Tuesday, March 20 – the group discussed that they would like to make sure that the Comp Plan Steering Committee keep in the forefront the importance of environmental sustainability in all planning documents and land use plans. A motion was made by Ms. Heuckeroth to ask Ms. Lee to send an email to the Comp Plan Steering Committee to voice the EAB’s concerns for a focus of sustainability in the planning process. This was seconded by Mr. Brant. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. Mr. Geasland shared with the group that he was approached by Ms. Zove of the group who is working to save the Corson property on how he could get involved

with their efforts. Mr. Geasland shared that he did not represent the EAB but as an individual in speaking with Ms. Zove and providing some documents that he had in his possession that might be of value. The group discussed the topic of the proposed land development at the Corson property, where Ms. Boyle Nester explained that the upcoming BOS meeting is their Conditional Use hearing, which is different from a land development hearing. She explained the purpose of the conditional use hearing, that it is to allow the property to be used for townhouses, and the land development process for this project has not yet begun.

6. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.