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Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2009

Location: Emmaus Borough Hall

Time: 7 PM

Members:	Municipal Representatives:
Upper Milford Township William Ahlert Bruce Snyder Christi Dunning (Absent) Randy Kraft (Absent)	Dan Delong
Borough of Emmaus Liesel Adam (Absent) Steve Baier Linda Santo Vacant Seat	Jeff Clapper
Intern: Tyler Moore	

1. The meeting minutes taken for the April meeting were approved without change.

2. Old Business

The Open Space Committee has reported the 37-acre parcel of land belonging to the Kohler family is ready to be handed over to the township. The owners want to be sure that the land is not developed so they are almost giving it away for preservation. The land has some drainage issues which make it undesirable for development.

An Engineering firm, Hanover, is now involved with the monitoring of the Cintas spill area. Jeff will provide updates on the status of the project.

3. Guest speaker Kelly Germann

Kelly has been working for 4.5 years with the Perkioman Watershed Conservancy, having restarted their stream restoration project. She deals directly with private land owners who call to her attention stream issues on

their land, mainly riparian buffer erosion. She expressed interest in starting outreach into our region because we are part of the Perkioman watershed headwaters. She has been met with little success in this venture, and hopes that by combining our two volunteer bases she will be able to complete more projects. She does not have any specific areas outlined in our area, but she is working on a list that will be ready to go when funding becomes available for projects. Bill supports the collaboration of our two organizations, also adding that our involvement could lend credibility to the effort.

4. Meeting with LMT EAC

Bill had a good meeting with the new Lower Macungie Township EAC, lasting almost 2 hours. There was a large community response to the creation of this body, and they mainly wanted advice on how to start up. Bill advised to not become “lightning rod” of hot issues, because that could possibly limit the effectiveness of the EAC. They were interested in supporting the water quality monitoring project associated with the Leibert Creek and Little Lehigh that we have been working on with the City of Allentown. Bill provided them with contact information for the City and indicated that we would continue to maintain an open line of communication with members of their group.

5. Centralized Garbage Survey

The survey put out in the newsletter has received thirty responses, 29 submitted through the website and one through snail mail. The response is approximately 50-50. Liesel is summarizing the results and the group should consider putting an article together to publish in the upcoming newsletter and what direction the group suggest the township pursue.

6. Leibert Creek Monitoring Project

The council agrees that we should spend the money we have now , \$1000, on a meter because other funding resources aren't coming through. Steve is going to contact Sherry to discuss with here what her testing limitations are so that we can begin to plan how the new data samples will be taken. Cari offered her services also, although she was unsure about how much testing she would be able to do in addition to her normal lab work.

7. Public Outreach and Education

During a quick discussion about the state of our brochure supply, Linda noted that our supply for the moment is adequate. Some of the septic system information pamphlets seem to be out of date, but the consensus of the council is that information regarding this topic has not changed significantly in the past few years, and that no updates needed to be found.

8. Events

July 5th and August 2nd are planned for the Farmer's Market, but one more person must be found for the August date. On Sept. 12th Heritage Days is taking place, and the registration form needs to be submitted to hold space for the group. Liesel volunteered to take part in the event, but one more person needs to be found. Bill and maybe Linda are planning to attend the Lehigh Valley EAC Conference November 7th.

9. New Business

Once again, the Renew LV Initiative was brought up during the meeting. According to studies done by the organization, by consolidating the 42 different wastewater management businesses, the Lehigh Valley could save \$60 million a year. The disorganized nature of the program now has led to mass sewage releases into the Lehigh River when the pipes leading into the sewage treatment plant overflow with water draining into the pipes through leaks and cracks. Bill supports educating the public about the issues and using the EAC network to provide community input. There is no specific action item but there will be any opportunity to learn more and participate in the future and Bill will keep the group informed.

It was also brought up that through funds acquired in Obama's Stimulus Package (ARRA), funds have become available for developing energy conservation master plans. A "master plan" is currently being developed by the City of Allentown and the hope is that a template can be developed that can be used by other municipalities to develop their own plans and ordinances that will establish energy reduction goals, e.g., reduced fuel consumption, reduced municipal vehicle usage, increased energy efficient lighting. Not all

parts of the template would need to be followed, but budgeters deciding on projects could consult the master plan to decide which projects should receive this government funding and develop metrics to monitor success. One suggestion was replacing street lamps with more efficient models that require less energy to provide the same amount of illumination. The group should consider developing an initiative to review other municipal plans and recommending plans to the Township and Borough.

Next Meeting

Location: UMT

Date: July 27, 2009

Time: 7 PM