

UMBT Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) September Meeting Report September 5, 2017

Attendees: Lori Poliskiewicz, Chair; Larry Ott, Co-Chair; Virgil Kasieber; Anthony DeFranco, Supervisor; Joann Dentith, Recording Secretary; Judy Henckel; Charlie Cole.

Absent: Rick Fisher, UMBT Manager, Jeff Horn, Scott Angus, Aline Haddad

Administrative/Reports -The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Lori Poliskiewicz. Motion to approve September 5, 2017 agenda by Larry Ott, 2nd Virgil Kasieber. Vote 3-0.

Announcements/Correspondence – Lori said the only correspondence she has received is the Environmental Advisory Council Network conference from Terry Kleintop. They usually only ask the top 6 advisory councils. The conference will be held April 12-14, 2018.

Board of Supervisors Update – Anthony DeFranco, Supervisor had no new information to add or discuss.

Public Comment – Charlie Cole: Nothing new on the Stine stump Farm. He added that mid-September a 7 judge panel will be making a ruling. They can decide if the neighbors are happy with the decision, or they can go back and do it all over again.

He also added that he's disappointed in the attendance of the EAC meetings. "Where are the members?" Judy added that we need a project to get people interested. Charlie wishes people would value and listen to points. Something needs to change to get good people interested. Larry O and Lori agree that the EAC is an "advisory board". The board can make recommendations but that's it. Lori P said that maybe the members should start going to the Board of Supervisors meetings so that we can have a good rapport with them.

Plans under Review (Planning Commission) – 535 Institute Rd – Torre Minor Subdivision. Submitted to the board the resubmittal plans and letter from Scott Policelli dated August 30, 2017. Lori P acknowledged the plans but said there's nothing new for the board to discuss at this time.

EAC Strategic Planning - None

Old Business (Previously discussed)

~ **Eastern Industries** – No changes. Anthony DeFranco said we are still waiting for the appraisal.

- ~ **Lake Minsi Update** – Larry attends all meetings. So far about \$5,000.00 has been raised. Biggest thing is fundraising. Thursday's meeting, the Fish & Game Commission will be there. They are going to have structures and a map of where they want to put everything. They would like to do about 200 cribs (4x4's) crisscrossed. We would pay for the wood and build them. Also, 200 porcupine cribs, and large rock structures which would be bigger for the fish to hide. Poles and posts like piers about two feet out of the water which is all good for the habitat. The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 7, 2017 6:30 PM at Gracedale.
- ~ **Recyclables** – An event at the Upper Mount Bethel Township building was held on Saturday, September 2, 2017. Habitat for Humanity collected over 100 cans of latex paint from 21 citizens. There are no other events in the works to be held at our location.
- ~ **Referendum** – The referendum is up in November. The residents just need to know what they are voting for. Judy recommended to figure out what the cost would be per income. She said the Open Space meeting is in October, and could get more facts for November's vote.

New Business

- ~ **New EAC Member** – Lori P will check with Aline and Jeff to see if they are still interested in serving on the EAC board. If not we will post on the UMBT website.
- ~ **EAC Budget 2018** – It was discussed what the board would like to see done with the money next year. An amount was discussed on what would be needed for next year's budget and what was spent to date this year. 2017 was a budget amount of \$4,200 (check this amount on the tape). Virgil suggested that the board ask for \$5,000. Lori O wanted to know what he would like to see happen with the funds for next year. Virgil said that he would like to see more happening at the Eastern properties. Larry said that we have to wait until we know the situation before we spend any money there. Anthony added that the township will preserve the majority of it. The road crew does take care of it, the trails are pretty good. Virgil said he would like to see trail work done, a sign and a map out front. A dock for the pond so that people could fish and possibly a small building with maps. Also added that the trails could be color coded. Anthony thought the budget would be tight. Judy suggested that a map could be made from National Lands Trust. Charlie C was unsure of the total cost for something like that but it could be looked into. Lori also suggested that we could do our own work. Lori asked how to present it and Anthony said that it would all need to be broken down by each category on how you want to spend the money. Larry Ott made a motion to ask for \$5,400.00 and Virgil Kasieber 2nd. Vote 3-0.

- ~ **Other projects for EAC – Fall Hike/Walk** – Discussed if it would be too late to do a walk for this fall. Larry suggested that a fundraiser could be done that could be used to fund Lake Minsi. Would have to decide on how to get people to donate for the walk. Peak time would be mid-October when the fall foliage is at its best. Larry said you could park by Kirkridge and come out at Water Gap. Virgil said the trail is about 7 miles. Larry said map says 7, but could be more. Lori asked if there would be any liability from the township, and Anthony said he didn't think so. Larry suggested starting at 9 AM, stopping halfway for lunch and could be done by 1PM. Beautiful views of Lake Minsi and the township. We could let walkers know to dress accordingly. Larry would look into possible dates – Saturday or Sunday. Once we have a date set it can be added to the UMBT website and Larry thought that Mike from the Blue Valley Times could advertise to help get the word out for this event. Archery season starts on October 2nd but Larry said that we would be on the trails so there should be no issues.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM upon motion by Virgil Kasebier, 2nd Larry Ott. Vote: 3-0.

Next EAC meeting Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Recording Secretary, Joann Dentith