

PARADISE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Aug 18, 2021
Paradise Township Municipal Building

Call to Order – Chair Gary Konrath called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Members Present – Konrath, Carol Hillestad, Edith Stevens, Cheryl Phillips, Joel Schilling

Minutes of the July 21 meeting were approved. Motion by Carol Hillestad, second by Gary Konrath.

Joel Schilling was appointed to the EAC to replace Laura Van Gilder. His term runs through 2024. Members welcomed Joel to the Council.

Mt Airy – Konrath provided members with copies of a letter (dated July 15, 2021) to Mount Airy #1 LLC from Daniel Ackers, PADEP. The letter detailed violations at Mount Airy Casino and Resort WWTP, NPDES Permit PA0060054 from September 2016 to March 2021. Members noted Fecal Coliform violations from September 2016 – August 2020 and Total Phosphorus August 2020 – March 2020 (Covid-19 shutdown). Due to the violations noted, the WWTP has been placed on the USEPA Significant Non-Compliant Discharger list.

A work session between Paradise BOS and Mt. Airy representatives is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8 at 5 pm, to discuss this letter, and also the Mt Airy Draft 2020 Greenway Monitoring Report. Mt. Airy has not adequately responded to Township comments on the last Draft of the Greenway Report provided to Mt. Airy.

Invasive plant – Mile-a-Minute – BOS has contracted with Absolutely Lawns (Tom Galucci) to treat Mile-A-Minute vine which has been found in large quantities at VanBuskirk Preserve. (This preserve borders Cranberry Creek.) Township is looking into getting a township employees licensed to use pesticides. The invasive vine has not been found at other Township preserves so far.

American Rescue Plan funds – Info has been received that the township allocation of American Rescue Plan funds can be used to address increased usage of Township parks due to Covid-19. The BOS is looking into details of requirements for use of the funds, but perhaps the open space funds used in 2020 and 2021 to maintain trails could be reimbursed from the ARP funds.

Historical Cemetery – The Paradise Historical Society toured the cemetery off Red Rock Road on Sunday, August 16. The cemetery was in good condition, thanks to Township maintenance staff. The PHS wants to assure that the cemetery is maintained and protected, and requests that the Township attorney research ownership and process for assuring the Township will continue to protect the property.

Conservation Easements – Members asked Konrath if the Township would use open space funds for conservation easements acquired by Pocono Heritage Land Trust, or other appropriately recognized land preservation organizations. Konrath said he does not know enough about conservation easements but is willing to learn.

Parkside Chapel – Has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and a public recognition picnic will be held at The Roof on September 18.