

PARADISE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Oct 20, 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 August 19 meeting were approved. Motion by Edie Stevens, second by Carol Hillestad. There was no meeting in September. EAC members attended the BOS meeting work session with Mt. Airy reps.

Konrath reported that the Township Zoning Officer shared with the BOS a letter from A.J. Magnotta (son of former engineer for Mt. Airy) asking if solar panels could be placed on Greenway lands. The ZO responded that non-recreational structures were not allowed on Greenway Lands. EAC members concurred but recommended that Magnotta and Mt. Airy be encouraged to investigate solar panels over parking lots, or on buildings. The parking lot solar at Northampton Community College was noted as a good example of the benefits.

The oil spill at the PMSD Swiftwater campus in late August that reached Swiftwater Creek was discussed. The BOS is still looking for answers from the School District and the County Office of Emergency Management as to why the Township was not notified of the spill and knew nothing about it until contacted by residents. Stevens reported that BWA requested information from PADEP and received a copy of the DEP letter (Notice of Violation) to PMSD dated August 26 and noted "cc. Paradise Township, Monroe County". Did Paradise Township receive this letter? Gary will follow-up. Note: BCRA was not cc on the letter. (letter attached)

Discussion of flooding and road damage from hurricanes and heavy rains in August and September: flooding on Route 191 near Crescent Lodge continues to be a problem. Most of the stormwater runoff appears to come from Wyndham Hills, which has some detention basins but was designed before stormwater management and detention was required. EAC recommends that BOS consult with Hanover Engineering as to whether retrofits to basins in Wyndham Hills would help alleviate the flooding problem.

Bank collapse on Sylvan Cascade Road – a section of the road collapsed along a steep bank leading to Butz Run. Much of the runoff that caused the collapse appears to come from a rough driveway immediately across the road from the collapse. Konrath reported that preliminary discussion suggests the township should "buy a couple of acres of the adjoining property and straighten the road."

EAC members recommended the Township look into buying that property, and other properties along Sylvan Cascade in the Butz Run watershed and addressing stormwater detention on the properties. There are mostly large properties with no dwellings. Additional funding for open space purchases will be available in 2022 in the Butz Run watershed through the Open Space Institute and William Penn Foundation. Members also pointed out that straightening the road may cause more problems as traffic will speed up.

This was Gary Konrath's last meeting, he is moving from the Township. Carol Hillestad brought cider and zucchini bread and members thanked Gary for his service and wished him well in West Virginia.

Edie Stevens
Secretary