

**PARADISE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 16, 2022**  
**Paradise Township Municipal Building**

Call to Order - Chair Mike Stein called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Members Present - Stein, Edith Stevens, Cheryl Phillips, Don Miller.

Guest – Louise Troutman, Executive Director, Pocono Heritage Land Trust

The minutes of the January meeting were approved as presented. Motion by Edie Stevens, second by Don Miller.

Old Business – Knauf Preserve handicap trail – Stein reported that the agenda for the next meeting of BOS will include asking Hanover Engineering to evaluate the property to determine if it is suitable for a handicap access trail, and if so, prepare a proposal for construction of such a trail.

EV charging stations inclusion in Township Zoning ordinance – BOS has tabled the item. The EAC recommends it be referred to the Township Planning Commission. Currently, since EV charging stations are not mentioned in the Township ordinances, they are permitted in any zone. Members discussed value of charging stations to local resorts and other commercial uses.

Mile a Minute Weed – BOS tabled this item until spring. Discussion of importance of pulling this invasive annual weed before it sets seed. EAC recommends placing a notice at each trailhead kiosk asking trail users to report sightings of this invasive weed to Township office. Stevens will prepare a draft notice.

Non-structural approaches to stormwater management – Stein will continue to seek a copy of engineering report for solutions to flooding on Rt 191.

Hiking trail signage – Joel Schilling prepared maps of current signage at Knauf Preserve. He recommends additional signage at trail intersections giving distances and directions to refer hikers back to trailheads.

Louise Troutman, PHLT – Louise and EAC members discussed a number of potential projects in Paradise Township where collaborative efforts could be made to protect additional open space properties, provide trail connections and enhance water quality. Protection can be through fee simple or conservation easement acquisition. DCNR prefers fee simple acquisition, however many property owners do not want public access on the land. WPF will fund conservation easements that do not require public access. It was noted that protecting water quality is a primary objective of the Township Open Space Plan.

Louise explained that the Butz Run watershed is now a Focus Area for William Penn Foundation funding. This means that Open Space Institute will provide up to 50% of costs for either fee simple or conservation easement acquisition, in the watershed.

Louise also noted that open space acquisition is “opportunistic “. A property may become available for a short time, and then be otherwise acquired and not available for several years.

Members suggested that the township look more favorably on acquiring land for trail connections and protecting stream corridors.

Considerable discussion was held on whether presence of a structure disqualifies a property from use of open space funds. Troutman noted that a structure can be excluded from the lands acquired with open space funds. This is what PHLT does for applications to DCNR.

Meetings was adjourned at 6:45 pm