

PARADISE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2022
Paradise Township Municipal Building & Zoom

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

Members Present - Stein, Joel Schilling, Cheryl Phillips, Don Miller; Edith Stevens and Carol Hillestad via Zoom.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as presented. Motion by Edie Stevens, second by Carol Hillestad.

Old Business –

Universal Access Trail – Knauf Preserve. Hanover Engineering inspected the property and affirmed that a Universal Access trail is feasible on the short loop. A surface material will be needed and a natural aggregate is recommended. Next step is a cost estimate and decision of whether Township road crew can do the project or will it be put out to bid. Don Miller asked if a fabric under the surface material will be included and Stein will follow-up with Hanover.

Re: connection between Knauf and Mt. Airy Merry Hill trails – topic has not been discussed by BOS. Stein will follow-up.

Hiking Trail signage and maintenance – topic tabled until meeting with Mt. Airy is set up. Stevens asked if there was an annual report from Mt. Airy on maintenance needs on their trails, a report was done in the past. Stein will follow up. Hillestad reported that Mt. Airy Red Rock trail is becoming very over-grown.

Mile-A-Minute weed – Hillestad trained road crew on identification and control on April 7. Pocket cards for road crew to carry have been printed and distributed and trailhead signs printed and being installed. Stein would like Mt. Airy to partner on this project and will bring up at meeting with representatives.

Stormwater run-off from Wyndham Hills – Stevens reviewed the report from Gilmore Associates (done several years ago) and reported the study only dealt with run-off after it exited the Wyndham Hills development. The Report did recommend, "The Township may wish to perform an evaluation of the stormwater conveyance facilities and complete upgrades, where needed, at a future date."

Stein reported he had discussed Township interests in maintaining Wyndham Hills drainage system with John Prevoznik and learned that, as presently written, the township had no standing on the deed restrictions regarding drainage easements on private property, however it does have an interest in maintaining drainage along township roads. The roads were dedicated to the Township several years after the development was built.

The BOS will review original plans for Wyndham Hills to see how drainage is addressed there.

The EAC discussed importance of education for homeowners on how to minimize damage from stormwater and maintain drainage systems. Joel will draft a short handout on stormwater management for homeowners to be distributed in Township outreach materials.

Jake Brakes - Stein reported that Hanover Engineering reviewed the section of Rt 940 where brake noise is a problem for nearby homeowners and prohibition of jake brakes is not possible as grades exceed 4%. (PennDot regulation)

New Business-

MEA Engineering Report on PMSD Fuel Oil Spill - Stein had previously sent this to EAC members. Discussion of how the report was received, to whom it was distributed and if BCRA and affected property owners received a copy of the report. Stein will follow-up with Tina Transue.

Mt Airy Greenway Report - EAC members discussed Hanover Engineering/Jason Smith letter reviewing the report. The letter addressed many important issues, however the use of a siphon to add colder water to the discharge was not addressed sufficiently, nor was dredging the lake to increase bottom cold water storage. Schilling noted that the 2022 Discharge Management Plan's "Temperature Evaluation" cited flow rates that did not take into account actual thermodynamics. Schilling also noted that this 2022 report's "Temperature Evaluation" did not address its proposal that warming trends would necessitate a siphon-like system, in that NOAA and other data are in fact indicative of such warming trends.

The poor macro-invertebrate scores were also discussed and improvements to the discharge at the Mt. Pocono Municipal Authority wastewater plant, not accounted for in the report, or review letter.