

PARADISE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 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; and Carol Hillestad via Zoom.
Guest Annette Atkinson attended via Zoom.

The minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting were reviewed as written. No revisions were proposed.
Motion to approve by Hillestad, second by Schilling. **Minutes approved 5-0.**

Old Business

Knauf Preserve Universal Access – Stein reported that Hanover Engineering is working on a detailed proposal and quote for converting the short loop at Knauf Preserve to a Universal Access hiking trail. Several options for linking the Knauf Preserve trail with Mt. Airy's Merry Hill trail and Red Rock Bike Trail were discussed. The EAC will wait until the detailed proposal for Universal Access conversion and trail linking (if possible) are presented to the Township at which time the EAC can evaluate and comment on the proposal.

Stormwater Runoff in Wyndham Hills – Stein noted that the issue of drainage culvert and swale debris and cleaning on property owned by homeowners in Wyndham Hills was discussed with the Township Solicitor and Engineer. It was determined that the Township does not have standing on the deed restriction requiring homeowners to keep drainage channels free of debris. Homeowners or the developer would need to act on enforcing this deed restriction. Further, the Road Dedication does not address stormwater drainage maintenance. The Township can act only on drainage channels on Township property in road right-of-way or easements.

MEA Engineering Report on PMSD Fuel Oil Spill – Stein reported that the Township was a recipient of the MEA Engineering report on the PMSD Fuel Oil Spill, but not a party to the report. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for the Township to distribute or endorse the report, but the Township did agree to request that PMSD forward the report to affected homeowners and residents.

Mt. Airy Greenway Report – A public work session on the 2022 Mt. Airy Greenway Report has been scheduled on June 6, 2022 at 5:00 pm at the Paradise Township Municipal Building. EAC members and other members of the public are welcome to attend and contribute.

New Business

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – The previously circulated PennDOT presentation on EV Charging Stations was reviewed as well as rebates and federal and PennDOT grants for construction of EV charging stations was reviewed. Stein reported that this report had been discussed by the Township

Supervisors and that there was no interest in installing EV charging station(s) on Township property at present. There was interest in disseminating grant and rebate information to local business to encourage them to install EV charging stations on their property to encourage EV drivers to visit their businesses. Guest Atkinson agreed to contact Colton Brown (717-705-4156, coltbrown@pa.gov) to get additional information regarding rebates and how to apply for grants from the Federal Infrastructure Bill and PennDOT. Once more information on how to apply for these programs is available, it can be developed into a letter to local businesses to disseminate this information and encourage EV charging station installation in Paradise Township.

Electrification of Paradise Township Small Equipment – A memorandum from Wilson Engineering Services, PC, was reviewed regarding replacing small equipment with electric equivalents. A motion was made by Hillestad, second Schilling to advise Township Supervisors to only fund replacing Township small equipment (chainsaws, leaf blowers, trimmers, string trimmers, zero turn mowers, etc) with electric equipment when the gas equipment comes up for replacement. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Other Business

Barberry Weed on Township Property – An email from EAC member Edie Stevens recommended Township road crew work to eradicate Barberry on Township property. A motion was made by Hillestad, second by Miller to advise Supervisors and Roadmaster that Barberry is becoming a significant issue on Township property and should be sprayed with herbicide, using a landscape vendor if necessary. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Ashover Hotel Building Removal – Miller noted that the buildings on the Ashover Hotel property have been demolished. It was mentioned that this property could be of interest for the Township to purchase as Open Space. Stein offered to communicate with Louise Troutman of Pocono Heritage Land Trust (PHLT) to inquire if property is for sale and if so, if PHLT is interested in acquiring it, or working with Paradise Township to explore opportunities to acquire it as Open Space.

Warehouse Construction in Neighboring Townships – Miller inquired if Paradise Township is cooperating with neighboring Townships regarding the proliferation of large footprint warehouses and increase in impervious land and its impact on stormwater runoff in Paradise Township. Stein stated that he was not aware of such communication. Guest Atkinson suggested working with Monroe County Planning Commission on this issue and encouraged EAC members to attend or communicate with the Monroe County Planning Commission to address this issue.

Adjournment –

Miller moved to adjourn, second by Schilling. **Motion approved 5-0.** EAC meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Stein, Chair