

PARADISE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 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, Edith Stevens. Cheryl Phillips and Carol Hillestad via Zoom.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as presented. Motion to approve by Joel S, second by Carol H. Approved with E. Stevens abstaining.

Since no quorum was present at the June meeting, there are meeting notes, but no minutes

Old Business

Mt. Airy work session, EAC with BoS, July 6.

As a result of the conversations at the work session, the BoS and the Zoning Officer have taken the following actions:

- A Cease and Desist order was issued to Mt. Airy and Deer Park Lumber to cease all logging operations.
- A Notice of Violation is being drafted for Mt. Airy stating the logging operation on Greenway lands was in violation of the terms of the Conservation Easement held by Paradise Township on Mt. Airy Greenway lands.

EAC Recommendation:

The EAC recommends that the BoS ask Jason Smith of Hanover Engineering to evaluate and design a remediation plan for the riparian area along Forest Hills Run where logging occurred.

The EAC recommends the BoS request that Mt. Airy, with the help of a qualified forester, develop plans for rehabilitation of the area that has been logged without an approved Forest Management Plan.

The EAC also recommends that the BoS brings Mt. Airy's violation of Township requirements to the attention of the PA Gaming Commission at the re-licensing hearing scheduled for August 3, 2022 at 10:30 AM, at the Township Municipal Building.

The Gaming Commission website has information on requirements for submitting comments at the public hearing on their website at <https://gamingcontrolboard.pa.gov/?p=319>.

New Business

Mt. Airy dam discharge temperature

EAC reviewed the report on June temperature readings submitted to the township by Mt. Airy's new engineering consultant, ARM Group.

The data indicates that the temperature of Forest Fills Run as it enters Mt. Airy property does not violate DEP water quality standards for temperature at any time during the month of June. However, the temperature exiting the dam (through the lower gate of the release tower) violates the temperature standard 70% of the time. This is a violation of the dam permit.

The ARM group reported to the BoS on June 6, 2022 that modifications of the drainage from the upper pond to the lower pond should improve thermal pollution from dam discharge. The EAC notes that this data from temperature reading above and below the dam suggest that this issue has not been resolved by current modifications and continues to be a problem.

EAC Recommendation: The EAC recommends the BoS send a letter to Mt. Airy. and to their engineer, requesting a revised plan for meeting the temperature requirements of the dam permit.

Township hiking trails

Stein reported the detailed plans for a Universal Access trail on the Knauf Preserve are under development. Construction can start as soon as those plans are complete and approved by the BoS.

Stein will follow-up on Mt. Airy agreement to post Mt. Airy phone number for reporting trail issues on Mt. Airy trails at trailheads.

Stein will follow-up on getting an e-file of Mt. Airy December 2021 Trail Report and send to EAC members.

EAC will discuss Joel Schilling's report on trail conditions on both Mt. Airy and township trails at the next meeting. EAC will also discuss requirements in the Conservation Easement regarding closing of trails.

Stein reported that Mile-a-Minute vine was again found in Van Buskirk Preserve. Spraying will occur soon but may be too late to avoid recurrence in 2023.