

PARADISE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING Notes
October 19, 2022, 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

Guest – Louise Troutman, Pocono Heritage Land Trust

A quorum was not present, therefore there was informal discussion, but no action taken at the October 19, 2022 EAC meeting.

Old Business

Work Session – Mt Airy Timber harvest on Greenway Lands: Mt Airy's representatives, including their forester, were in attendance. It was agreed that Mt Airy will provide some documentation to the BOS within 30 days of the meeting date (October 17) of the harvesting done and the primary and secondary conservation areas in the timbered area. The BOS will engage a forester to review that submittal.

Potential property acquisition – A letter from Louise Troutman, PHLT was sent to the Board of Supervisors regarding a property of interest. This letter will be reviewed and considered at the next Board of Supervisors Regular Business Meeting.

Township website and trail maps – Stein reported that the concept of improved maps and trail guides was accepted by the Board of Supervisors and will be included in the 2023 budget.

New Business

EAC members contacting BOS solicitor and engineer - Members discussed the statement read by Gonze at Work Session on October 17. It was noted that Township contractors, such as the Solicitor and Engineer are paid out of Township taxpayer funds, and every email or telephone call uses the contractor's time and incurs taxpayer expense. It was further noted that the contractors are hired under terms that they advise and provide a service to the Board of Supervisors, and not residents of the Township or committees. EAC members should request any services or opinion of these contractors through the Board of Supervisors, who then must approve of any taxpayer expense to pay these contractors for this service, pursuant to State law.

Clean and Green taxes – Stevens provided info on the amount of property taxes paid on properties in the preferential tax assessment program (Act 319, or Clean and Green). On a 15 acre parcel with no improvements in the Township, the school tax in 2022 is \$13.57 and county and township tax was \$3.05. The payment of 7 years of rollback taxes required if the property is developed is no deterrent to development. She proposed that should the Township acquire such properties for public use, the impact on township revenue should be minor. This impact was not reviewed by the Board of Supervisors or Tax Collector.

As a quorum was not present, no actions or votes were taken. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.