

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
November 7, 2019**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Elisabeth Cichonski (Secretary), Brian Hillard, Beth Behrend, Kathy Fox.

Martha Christine (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife [BBFW]), Michael Gibson (Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environment Committee), Mike Alkhal (Director of Public Works, City of Bethlehem), Matt Dorner (Deputy Director of Public Works), John Spirk Jr. (Solicitor for City Council), Eric Evans (Business Administrator, City of Bethlehem), Josie Miserendino, Elke Rockwell, Ann Gastinger, Andrew Conboy (Lehigh University [LU]), Angie Rizzo (LU), Natalie Reyes, Ben Guthrie, James Barsus (Wood).

1. Approval of minutes from the October EAC meeting: Motion to approve the minutes made by Beth, seconded by Brian H.

2. City of Bethlehem Progress on proposed Stormwater Utility Fee:

The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program regulates point source water pollution. There are federal and regional (state, PAG-13) limits that entities are required to meet. Every five years an entity is required to renew their permit; permits are becoming increasingly stringent. There are six minimum control measure (MCMs) for which every 5 years municipality/entity needs to identify actions for six areas: 1) Public education/outreach on stormwater impacts; 2) Public involvement/participation; 3) Illicit discharge detection and elimination; 4) Construction site stormwater runoff control; 5) Post-construction stormwater management; 6) Pollution prevention/good housekeeping.

EAC's often take responsibility and become the liaison between the city and the community to help with public education and outreach. Currently, the team working on the stormwater program for the City of Bethlehem is evaluating what should go into the plan. There will be future public engagement meetings to discuss implementing stormwater management programs in the City of Bethlehem.

3. Michael Gibson, Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Energy and Environment Committee (GLVCC):

GLVCC is roughly 6,000 members strong, representing Chambers of Emmaus, Hellertown, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Nazareth and others. The Energy and Environment Committee (E&E) was founded 16 years ago. The E&E Committee discusses topics from Marcellus Shale to comprehensive energy strategies, holds workshops and hosts a summit every year. Upcoming discussions will be held on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and Transportation Carbon Initiative (TCI). All but two states implementing these programs use the money generated for rebates and green energy programs; the other two allot this to general funds. The Transportation Carbon Initiative relates to liquid fuels and reducing carbon emissions. Liquid fuels are used in mass transit, airports, seaports, bridges, road, etc. so this carbon fee addresses all modes of transportation.

For more information on the E&E Committee, visit:
<https://www.lehighvalleychamber.org/energyenvironment.html>

The FutureLV meeting is Nov. 14 from 3:30 to 6:30 PM.

Old business: WSP consultants was hired by the City of Bethlehem to put together a Climate Action Plan.

City Council will be holding a budget meeting on Nov. 21. Included in the General Fund is \$80,000 for a consultant to write a climate action plan. EAC members should attend to show support if available.

New business: First Presbyterian Church requested that the EAC come in to do a presentation. Kathy will coordinate with Lynn.

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Board Announcements: Kathy represented the Bethlehem EAC and the Bethlehem Food Co-Op at festival unbound. All who attended were pleased with the turn-out and discussion.

There are no recycling receptacles outside of the Clubhouse Grille at the at Bethlehem Municipal Golf Club. Bethlehem Golf Club leases the space to the Clubhouse Grille. Inquiries have been made relating to this issue.

YWCA Great Decisions preview lecture “Climate Change: Lehigh Valley Strategies for Today & Tomorrow” at Kirkland Village - conversation was encouraging. Brian H. said there was good support. Can find more information on the Great Decisions website.

Kathy has accepted a board position with the Bethlehem Food Co-Op, so she will be stepping down from her position on the Bethlehem EAC.

Brian H. will also have to resign in January, since he is moving from the City of Bethlehem to Bethlehem Township.

Next agenda: Discussion of priorities for 2020

Meeting Adjourned at 9:14 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Elisabeth Cichonski, Secretary