

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Elisabeth Cichonski (Secretary), Brian Nicas, Ben Felzer, Ben Guthrie, Councilman William Reynolds (Liaison for the EAC). Lily Eyvazzadeh, Martha Christine (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife [BBFW]), Citizen's Climate Lobby [CCL]), Jane Cook (Monocacy Creek Watershed Association & BBFW), Katrina Prutzman (Green Drinks).

Call To Order @ 7:05 PM

1. **Approval of minutes:** Lynn made a motion to approve the February minutes, seconded by Mike. Approved unanimously.
2. **Place citizens' comments on agenda:**

On March 21-22 and 28-29 (9 AM- 12 PM) Monocacy Creek Watershed Association is planting 1,000 live stakes along the Monocacy creek. If you want to sign up, sign up via Penn State Extension.
3. **Chair's comments & amendments to agenda:** Pursuant to discussion at our last meeting, Lynn clarified that state of PA does not allow members on the Zoning Hearing Board to hold another elected or appointed position in the municipality or be an employee of the municipality.

Wildlands Conservancy is having an Envirothon on April 21-23 focusing on Water Resource Management at the Wildlands Conservancy. Volunteers are needed starting around 8:30 AM. Lynn presented the following updates on behalf of Katharine Targett Gross, Sustainability Officer for Lehigh University, since she was unable to attend:

Katharine got senior leadership approval to move forward with a Climate Action & Resiliency Plan for Lehigh University. The Scope of Work is complete and she is working on the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Lehigh's Earth Day Fair will be held on April 22 from 11 am to 2pm and the theme is Climate Action. The EAC and BBFW are invited to have a table. Ben F. and Elisabeth volunteered to man a table.

The list of EAC subcommittee projects were shared with students and Katharine will let us know if any students are interested in assisting.
4. **Board comments and announcements:** Mike raised the issue of a property on 2105 Creek Road (6 acres used to be a horse farm). A developer is requesting a zoning change for the property from Rural Residential (RR) to Residential Retirement Complex (R-RC) to establish a residential retirement complex. This property is on the flood plain. The developer's request is being brought to the Planning Commission next Thursday and Planning Commission will make a recommendation to City Council. The Saucon Creek Watershed Association also brought this issue to attention. A representative from the Monocacy Creek Watershed Association will at the Planning Commission Meeting to support keeping the current zoning. Mike is requesting that the EAC write a letter in support of retaining the RR designation. It was agreed that we would send a letter prior to Thursday's meeting.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **BBFW:** Martha shared work dates for the Hoover Mason Trestle. These dates will be posted on the EAC Facebook page.
 - b. **Waste Reduction Committee:** Katrina suggested connecting with her in regard to restaurant sustainability because she has been networking with restaurant owners and has restarted the monthly Green Drinks events. Martha suggested Food Co-Op restaurants. Mike suggested getting in touch with his son who owns a restaurant.

Beth is reaching out to Apple Ridge Farm about their composting efforts. Elisabeth reached out to Greater Easton Development Corporation and will reach out to Lehigh Valley Development Corporation.

Lehigh County is drafting a Plastic Bag Ordinance. Northampton County is not. Beth and Lynn are working on drafting a letter regarding the Plastic Bag Ordinance in Bethlehem to send to City Council. Brian requested more information on the plastic bag ban to share on the website.

c. Green Committee:

- i. Meeting with City Forester:** EAC and BBFW met on 3/4 with David Schaffer. He is working on the City-wide tree inventory of street trees in Bethlehem and has quotes from contractors to get this done. Tree name, species, diameter, number of trunks, health of tree and GPS coordinates will be collected. David hopes to complete the inventory this year and grant funding could help achieve this goal. However, if David cannot obtain funding, he said the City ensured him this could be completed next year.

An intern position is available with the City Forester.

The Arbor Day event will be held Friday, April 24th beginning around 10 AM and is open to the community. Three trees will be planted by the greenway behind the fire station. Holes will be pre-made. David asked for any volunteers that would like to speak on related topics at the Arbor Day celebration. Martha suggested that there are spotted lantern fly fliers available via Penn State Extension that could be distributed at the event.

Seedlings will be handed out at City Hall on Arbor Day.

David updated the group on the Community Northside 2027 project: Phase I: Inspect dead/decaying trees and recommend stump removal this year. Money has been allocated for tree improvements (\$300,000).

During Phase II, there will probably be volunteer opportunities.

- ii. Heritage Tree Program:** This is a fun program to get community members involved in identifying and recognizing a legacy tree in your neighborhood. Martha suggested having heritage tree forms at the Earth Day celebration. Lynn requested that Brian bring in certificates for Heritage Trees to share with the EAC. Ben G. suggested that we include a photo gallery on our website of heritage trees. Katrina suggested that we provide stats about carbon capture ability of new growth vs. old growth in the description of the Heritage Tree Program online. Martha suggested that further down the road this program be promoted and included at schools.

6. External Committee Reports:

- a. City Council:** None.
- b. Planning:** None.
- c. Zoning:** None.

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. Climate Action:** The contract has been executed with WSP. The first meeting with administration was held and the City is creating a steering committee. Step 1 is to accumulate City's data, review and look at outside organizations that the City could partner with to help sustain the CAP. The first public meeting is expected to be sometime in May, with the second tentatively falling in September. Public outreach avenues were

discussed. Lynn was asked to be a part of the steering committee. The school district, and other major stakeholders/members of the community will also be included. Councilman Reynolds stressed that it is important to have voices from every part of our community represented in the decision-making process for the CAP.

i. **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act:** City Council will be voting on a resolution put forth by Councilman Reynolds in support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 on April 7th. Councilman Reynolds thanked Martha for sending the information over. He stressed the importance of educating the public about the importance of this program. The more we can talk about issues like this with others, the better. The EAC will send a letter of support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Lynn asked for a motion to approve writing the letter supporting the resolution to the City—Mike made a motion to approve the recommendation letter; Elisabeth seconded the motion.

b. **Ice House Programs:** Beth was the point of contact and shall provide an update at next month's EAC meeting.

c. **EAC logo:** Table discussions on this until May.

d. **Lehigh Valley Environmental Advisory Council Gathering March 11th & EAC Network Conference May 2:** Brian and Elisabeth will be attending the LV EAC Gathering.

The EAC Network Conference is scheduled for May 2 from 8 AM – 4 PM at Upper Merion Township Building. The cost is \$55 before March 1, \$65 after. EAC members may be able to get partial reimbursement for this event.

8. **New Business:** The City Clerk's office sent us information on properties that they are looking to sell – most areas are triangular pieces of land between or bordering properties, nothing large enough for anything to be built (0.1 to 0.4 acres). These will not be discussed until the April 14th City Council Meeting.

Green Drinks started up in January at Belle Hall and were held at the Social Still in February. Katrina is still looking for a location for the March event. She is organizing this now and plans to hop around to different locations each month.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elisabeth Cichonski, Secretary