

**Zoom Meeting Attendees:** Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Elisabeth Cichonski (Secretary), Beth Behrend, Brian Nicas, Ben Felzer, Ben Guthrie, Martha Christine (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife [BBFW], Citizen's Climate Lobby [CCL]), Brian Hillard (Sierra Club), Katharine Targett Gross (Lehigh University [LU]).

**1. Approval of minutes (March):** Motion to approve the March Minutes made by Mike, seconded by Brian N. Minutes approved unanimously.

**2. Place citizens' comments on agenda:** The Earth Day event at Lehigh University will be cancelled due to the coronavirus, but there will be virtual Earth Day events. The Bethlehem Farmer's Market opening will be postponed until July 9<sup>th</sup>. The Farmer's Market will run through November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda:** The EAC Network Conference scheduled for May 2 may be presented as a virtual session. Lynn will have a call to discuss details tomorrow and will share the information with the EAC via email. Thank you to Ed Gallagher (Gadfly) for sharing the Moravian Academy students' article.

**4. Board comments and announcements:** None.

#### **5. Committee reports**

**a. Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW):** BBFW successfully completed maintenance work along the Greenway Meadow while maintaining appropriate social distancing. The BBFW clean ups have been cancelled until further notice.

**b. Waste Reduction Committee:** Lily Eyvazzadeh is starting an online petition for BASD students to sign showing their support of Bethlehem's Plastic Bag Ordinance.

**c. Green Committee:** The mature trees at Martin Tower have been removed. Brian N. emailed David Shaffer asking for details about their replacements on the property. Lynn will email Tracy Samuelson from the Planning Commission to request to be kept up to date with the plans for the Martin Tower property.

#### **6. External committee reports**

**a. City Council:** As agreed at our last meeting, Lynn sent a letter to City Council to support the resolution sponsored by Councilman Reynolds in support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act to be voted on at the April 7<sup>th</sup> city council meeting

**b. Planning:** Beth and Mike attended the Planning Commission meeting regarding the property at 2105 Creek Road in which a developer was requesting that the property be re-zoned from Rural Residential (RR) to Residential Retirement Complex (R-RC) to establish a residential retirement complex. Beth read the letter the EAC sent in favor of maintaining the zoning as RR. The Planning Commission voted 4 to 1 to not recommend re-zoning the property.

**c. Zoning:** None.

#### **7. Unfinished business**

**a. Climate Action:** WSP, the consultant working on the City's Climate Action Plan, emailed Lynn to request she be a part of the Stakeholder's Working Group. Past Bethlehem EAC

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member, Brian Hillard will also be part of this working group. WSP plans for two meetings and a survey to gather input from stakeholders, and encouraged the EAC to share information and provide feedback on behalf of the EAC.

**b. Festival Unbound Project:** Elisabeth has begun working with one student on the topic of Water Quality.

**c. Ice House Programs:** No report.

**d. LV EAC Network Gathering March 11:** The first EAC Network Meeting (a meeting for all Lehigh Valley EACs) was held on March 11. There was a strong turn out and each EAC introduced some of their recent or current projects to share ideas for possible synergies between groups. Elisabeth will forward the EAC Network Meeting Minutes to all EAC members. The next EAC Network Meeting was tentatively scheduled for June, however it is too soon to tell whether we will be able to convene at this time.

**8. New business:** None.

**9. Agenda for next meeting:** Meeting in May TBD.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elisabeth Cichonski, Secretary