

Minutes

No public comment

Minutes approved with minor corrections.

Officers – Kelly asked about roles, volunteered to be vice. Les nominated, Barb seconded. All voted aye, no nays.

Initiatives

Johnston estate – township owns 53 acres, nature conservancy

St. Luke's owns everything south of Freemansburg, Jandl owns north of 22

Farmland Preservation program – Needs a motivated farmer to take advantage of the program. Mrs. Miller might have been a good candidate; wanted 2 M from Koehler's; couldn't justify cost; developer probably got closer to \$4M. The Millers needed to turn something over to their children. Steve asked if farmland preservation was looked into; Les explained zoning law, developers have the right to develop. Even if Farmland Preservation would step in with enough money, there still needs to be a farmer or someone to tend to the land. Farm, community garden, etc. In addition, that property still has restrictions, including PPL transmission lines running through as well as it being in a floodplain. Les: greenways could use a need cleanup and tending to; could use volunteers, or be boy scout/girl scout project.

E-waste/haz waste event:

County is organizing hazardous waste collection event at NACC. Registration opens September first, event is October 1st. Must pre-register.

Other electronic waste facilities – Einfalt recycling in Stockertown has a scrap yard and takes fridges.

Stormwater

Les – there is a complete plan; prioritizing pollution reduction to meet standards; prioritizing several basins; they will be removing flow channels and mowing at a bigger interval, allowing more infiltration.

There is concern for more sinkholes. retention basin at Santee Rd. is too small.

Larger one planned for East Blvd. basin (owned by Bethlehem City)

Education for homeowners on stormwater

There is a stormwater committee.

Stormwater fee – everyone has to pay (postal office, schools, stores, ...)

Last permit requires more expensive retrofits, had to go to fee

Brian asked if property owners can reduce their stormwater and fee; must propose to engineer, cases by case basis. Brian mentioned that allowing residents to reduce their stormwater impact (and potential to reduce their fees) could empower them to reduce their impact.

Les commented new development good for stormwater, much more controls than before.

Other Groups

Bethlehem Food Coop

Sierra Club

Camelhump farm - Vicky Bastidas (very passionate)

Outreach/communication

Facebook page – all communication goes through township; Facebook page would have to be cleared through Doug;

Posting on Nextdoor, wait until posted on municipal site and then post as individual

New development – Brian was curious if blower door testing is occurring on new construction. Les mentioned Amanda Raudenbush would be best to contact – she is the Planning Director

By laws – Brian did not look at, will plan to consider next month or two

Cleanup event – EAC would have to organize the event and identify key areas

Rt 22 & 191 – very difficult to clean up – traffic, safety;

Towpath; bike path; boat launch;

Community center park – why can't we access with bikes; rich states bikers ride too fast, present danger

Many trails not as accessible for bikes, or both modes of traffic. Comm Gallagher posited what the committee could do to allow bike access to trails. Brian wondered if there isn't a way to widen it, and utilize other funding (LVPC walk roll, etc.). Commissioner Gallagher proposed in part with LVPC Walk roll to expand it.

Parks dept – funding has always been issue; not enough money to fix parks; Parks & rec committee (?)
would be to look for grants to fund / complement parks and rec fund
Open space initiatives often result in higher taxes, development keeps them low.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.