**Environmental Advisory Council**

**Jefferson Hills Borough, Pennsylvania**

**February 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

***Meeting Began:*** 6:34 pm

***Roll Call:***

EAC Members in attendance: Lori Bartrug, Alexandra Hakala, Terry Ackman, Kevin Polick, Christina Ripley, Alexandra Hakala, Tom Donohue, Rick Moore.

Guests: John Stinner, Chief Brian Chalfant

Note taker: Christina Weir

***Guest discussion:***

Rick Moore provided an update on the East Palestine Train Derailment:

* 48 miles from Jefferson Hills Borough; straddles the PA/OH border
* Derailment was on 2/3; Town evacuated on 2/5; controlled burn and citizens were able to return on 2/8 (Vinyl Chloride)
* 141 Railcars; 21 hauling hazardous materials; 11 of 38 derailed cars were carrying hazardous materials
* 5 streams + Ohio River impacted
* EPA is conducting air + water sampling
* Surface water samples were high for vinyl chloride and other hazardous materials
* Norfolk Southern is installing underflow dams, hard boom containment, rerouting streams, aerating surface water, residential well water testing, continuous air, and water monitoring
* Jefferson Hills has 3 railroad corridors within the jurisdiction

Chief Chalfant:

* Wheeling Erie cuts through the borough; Norfolk Southern is generally on the periphery
* Annual training with Norfolk Southern; Chief Chalfant is on the County Hazmat crew and has special training for rail car issues
* Track commodity reports: Ask Rail and Rail Locator Apps are used to identify commodities and railroad logistics
* Most cars traversing Jefferson Hills carrying coal or flammable liquids (liquid petroleum gas, propane, butane, isopropanol, etc.)
* All cars are tracked (empties or carrying otherwise)
* Borough railroad tracks are considered low speed tracks
* There is always a chance of catastrophic failure; however, the borough has adequate access to hazmat and other extraneous response measures
* All Jefferson Hills Fire & Rescue are trained at a Hazmat Operations level

John Stinner services as the Emergency Management Coordinator provided an overview of the Jefferson Hills Borough Emergency Response Processes. There is a potential to involve the EAC in emergency response planning.

***General Discussion***

The EAC will continue to function as a hybrid meeting to remain compliant with the Sunshine Act. The group was reminded to set up their borough emails in teams so that the group can also share/store/edit files on the Teams site.

The group discussed about voting consensus procedures and how to leverage technology to incorporate individual perspectives and contributions.

A proposal to break interests into smaller groups consistent with the democratic process.

***Conflict of Interest***

The group discussed a conflict-of-interest policy for members. John Stinner is going to follow up with the Council conflict of interest policy for the EAC review.

***EAC Recommendations on the Sarah Well Pad (Union Township)***

Letter was read to Borough Council by Councilman Lynch. The letter was entered into council minutes and records. The Council will follow up with EAC on any next steps.

Lori Bartrug and Rick Moore mentioned road impacts.

***Abandoned Mines***

Terry Ackman provided a recap on his presentation to the borough regarding the Abandoned Mine.

***US Steel Clairton Coke Works***

Kevin Pollick provided a review of the annual compliance report regarding EPA emission targets and the Turnpike 43-expansion project.

The Citizen’s Advisory Panel (Clairton, Glassport, Liberty Borough, McKeesport, Port Vue, Lincoln, and – Jefferson Hills) - represented by Kevin Pollick

***New Borough Website and EAC Information***

Still in the works.

***Other Discussion Items:***

Commonwealth is accepted glass recyclables again. The borough’s hazardous disposal program was also reviewed.

Earth Day – April 22, 2023. Borough Clean Up Day will happen.

US Steel’s Peters Creek Sponsorship is received and under review.

***Motion to Adjourn***

***Meeting ended 8:13 pm.***

***Next Scheduled Meeting***: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 6:30 pm