**Environmental Advisory Council**

**Jefferson Hills Borough, Pennsylvania**

**January 25, 2023 Meeting Agenda**

***Roll Call:***

EAC Members in attendance: Lori Bartrug, Alexandra Hakala, Joseph Lynch, Kevin Polick, Christina Ripley, Alexandra Hakala, Tom Donohue, Rick Moore, Kevin Polick, Joe Lynch.

Guests: John Stinner, Melissa Steffey

***Guest discussion:***

President Steffey indicated that the Borough council is having discussions with all borough advisory councils to reinforce the relationship of the advisory councils and the Borough Council. The EAC is composed of 9 resident volunteers appointed by the Borough Council. The Borough council is asking for one EAC representative to report up to council every 2-3 months on the activities of the EAC. Historically Tom Donohue presented the EAC activities during the Planning Commission meetings. Reports to the Borough Council should be more purposeful. The EAC will make a point to provide an update to Council on a routine basis.

Tom Donohue mentioned that one member of the EAC has not been active and request a new member be appointed. President Steffey would look into that possibility.

Christina Ripley recommended having a strategic plan for the EAC so there was a focused effort for research and position recommendation by the EAC. All were in agreement.

Lori Bartrug indicated that she is meeting with John Stinner to coordinate a Platform like Microsoft Teams to coordinate research and prepare papers. They are meeting on Tuesday (1/31/2023).

President Steffey indicated that Joey Lynch would be a good option for a periodic update to Borough Council because he is a Borough Council member.

***Annual Reorganization for Chairperson and Secretary***

EAC discussed best candidate for Chairperson to head the EAC. After deliberation Rick Moore was chosen as Chairperson with Alexandra Hakala as a Vice Chairperson. A secretary was not chosen. This position will be rotated on a monthly schedule. Meeting minutes will be prepared by this person.

Also discussed that meetings should be entirely on Zoom or MS Teams to utilize the functions of the sharing platforms. All agree after a discussion.

***Marcellus Gas Drilling:***

EAC discussed letter to Borough Council on the EQT Sarah Gas Well in Union Township, Washington County. This letter was put on hold prior to the January 2023 Borough Council agenda meeting. Christina Ripley will recirculate this letter for EAC members to review and comment.

Discussion on the types of information to consider when formulating EAC opinions. It was agreed upon that peer-reviewed journal articles were the best resource for defensible fact-based information. A MS Teams platform would be helpful for storage and sharing of information including references. The EAC also discussed the proximity of the proposed Sarah well pad to Beedle Park in Jefferson Hills Borough.

Kevin Polick opened a discussion for requesting information from entities like EQT. John Stinner indicated that as a resident anyone can request information. Any EAC member asking on behalf of the borough would need to have the information request reviewed by the borough’s legal representative. John Stinner will engage Legal and potential schedule a talk with the EAC.

The proposed gas well near Elizabeth-Forward High School was discussed. The well is 1700 feet from the High School.

An article for “InCommunity” magazine about gas well zoning was coordinated by John Stinner. This was published in the Winter 2022 edition (Page 54).

***Interpretive Wetland***

Tom Donahue: Not much to report. PADEP would need the wetland mitigation wetland permit number to look up the status of Tomko’s efforts at the Peter's Creek wetland restoration site to determine if their restoration obligations are complete.

***Abandoned Gas Wells and Mines***

Terry Ackman (absent at this meeting) gave a presentation at the borough building about abandoned gas wells and mines. Being Terry Ackman was not in attendance at the January 2023 EAC meeting, he will be requested to provide an update at the next meeting.

***US Steel Clairton Coke Works Air Quality***

Kevin Polick: Nothing new to report. Kevin Polick indicated that the next meeting for USS would be at the end of February 2023.

***Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) Resource***

John Stinner provided information for GASP for the EAC members to review as an other resource for regional air quality. Website: <https://www.gasp-pgh.org/agprimer-resources>

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

EAC discussed future EAC information posting once the new website development is complete. Information that could be added to the website for the EAC are the Adopt-a-Road liter pickup areas in the borough, recycling opportunities, and other environmental initiatives.

***EPA Wetland Regulations***

Tom Donahue discussed the latest for wetland regulations from the current Administration.

***Other Discussion Items:***

Tom Donahue mentioned PFAS and the reporting requirements. Rick Moore indicated that the reporting of concentration of PFAS in materials was only proposed and it could be months to years for the rules to be implemented if ever. Rick indicated that there were new Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) requirements for use quantity to require companies to report to the TRI. PADEP recently published drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS. EPA Was working on their own MCLs which were due out as draft in December 2022.

***Meeting ended 8:20 pm.***

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