

# **Upper Mount Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council Meeting**

**Date: September 4, 2024**

**Time: 7:00pm**

**Location: Upper Mount Bethel Township Building , 378 Ye Olde Highway Mount Bethel, PA 18434**

## **Attendees**

• Committee Members present: Judy Henckel, Dohl DiFebo, Allison Heinsohn, Alexandra Dutt

Absent: Courtney Gilmour;

Others: David Friedman – Supervisor Liaison

## **Meeting called to order by Judy at 7:03pm**

A motion to approve the agenda for 9/2024 was made by Allison, and seconded by Dohl.

A motion to approve the minutes from 5/2024 was made by Allison, and seconded by Dohl.

## **Public Comment**

- None.

## **Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic Expansion**

- Tara Mezzanotte (Email: tara.mezzanotte@gmail.com) – Lead for the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River expansion.
- Municipalities are passing resolutions to support inclusion of new segments and tributaries.
- Final resolution of endorsement: groups are identifying rare values that make the segment and tributaries eligible.
- Upper Mount Bethel Township could secure a position on the management council (Jeff Ackerman has previously represented UMBT).
- Key points from the sample resolution:
  - Reaffirming UMBT's involvement, as the township was previously included.
  - Jacoby Creek dam and farm ponds are excluded as gaps, but stream flow is not..
  - If UMBT agrees to the resolution, they would be cooperating with these key points.
  - The resolution only signifies interest in being part of the study to enable future participation.
  - This resolution does not impose any regulations.
  - UMBT would be reaffirming an existing resolution, focusing on supporting additional segments and reappointing the township representative.
  - Portland passed a resolution supporting the study, with the option to endorse after the study is completed.
  - UMBT previously pass a resolution, but outside the deadline and due to lack of local support from both sides of the water.
  - The current discussion pertains to the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River, not the entire National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
  - Motion to approve the resolution with discussed adjustments to send to the Open Space Board, and subsequently to the Supervisors, was made by Dohl and seconded by Alex.

**Follow-Up from Last Meeting:****Well Ordinance Status Update:**

- The well ordinance may be discussed later this month by the Planning Commission before being forwarded to the Supervisors.

**EAC Website and GIS Discussion:**

- A presentation on GIS will take place at the October meeting. WeConservePA will explain how GIS can assist EACs.
- Alex will organize a Zoom meeting for the next EAC session.
- Plan Slate Belt:
- Working on creating an interactive map for farm preservation, open space, etc.
- The comprehensive plan forms the basis for future resolutions and laws. The Supervisors need to agree on responsibilities for the remaining 8 municipalities and decide who will manage which portions.
- Discussion on designating Route 611 as a critical road, including concerns about rock slides and potential for a railway trail.

**Budget:**

- Discussion on whether to apply for a budget for EAC activities.

**Open Space Advisory Board:**

- A study needs to be completed before moving into different phases of the plan, which will make the township eligible for grant funding.
- \$600,000 grant secured to proceed with the early stages of the Study in the Upper Mount Bethel Preserve.

**Judy adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm. Motion made by Dohl, Allison seconded it.**

**Next meeting: October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm**