

Upper Mount Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

Date: April 9, 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; Absent: Courtney Gilmour, Alexandra Dutt; Others: David Friedman – Supervisor Liaison; Jonathan Erler – Supervisor; Videotaped by Chris Callie

Meeting called to order by Judy

Minutes from 3/12/2024 were approved as amended.

Follow-up from last meeting:

Judy wrote a synopsis on EAC for UMBT newsletter. Going forward will have more time and thought on what to convey.

Discussed way to communication between EAC and residents including a tab for EAC on UMBT website that can include links to educational activities. Dohl will follow-up to see how it can be done.

EAC minutes to be posted on UMBT website after approval

EAC meeting date set as first Wednesday of each month.

New Business:

Judy sent out draft well ordinance ahead of meeting so that EAC could provide any comments on it. During the meeting she provided a history of the well committee and noted the members as herself, Charlie Cole, Jeff Manzi, Cori Eckman and Jim Potter. Current well ordinance is from 2004 and covers only individual wells, nothing on developers. Supervisor Friedman said that the intention with the current ordinance was to add provisions for developers but that never happened. EAC members discussed draft and felt it was a good step forward. Judy said that the well committee is still in discussions on some objections that have been raised.

Also discussed that in 2009-2010 a consultant was engaged with funding from a grant to study the various watersheds in the township and record data on uses of that water. However that data was not kept up to date and currently there's not a good source for how many wells or where there are wells in the township.

Future meeting topics

Tara M from Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers will present at next meeting

Dohl was agreeable to hosting an event of Ott's farm at the end of summer/Fall to include pasture walk, Q & As, preserved land. Noted it would be good to have other farmers attend and share their perspectives.

Judy and Dohl to attend GIS webinar on EACs and how they can benefit communities. Will report back

Other Discussion

Use of alternative energy (solar/wind) by UMBT such as at the community park if a municipal building as built there.

Having an inventory of the number and type of farms in the township

PennDot to release a plan for Rt 611 to the Planning Commission next week

More emphasis on Green Infrastructure and potentially an ordinance on same

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Next Meeting: May 1, 2024 at 7 PM