

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
August 25, 2021, 6:30 PM at Palmer Township Public Library
Minutes**

• **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS—**

- The meeting was called to order by the vice chairman, Ginny Sciorra, at 6:32 pm.
- In attendance were, Ginny Sciorra, Nancy Nicholas, Diane Halasz, Joshua Kasenga, and Deanne Werkheiser.
- Doreen Shaffer, Ann Marie Panella, and Anita Forrester were absent.
- Guests: Carol Homeyer (Palmer Township resident), Bill Hartin (Palmer Township resident), Harry Graack (Palmer Township land owner) and Donna Somers (Palmer Township land owner)

• **Vice Chairman Report—Ginny Sciorra**

- Acknowledged the approval of the 2 new members of the ESC committee
- She introduced the guests and let them speak

• **GUESTS – Bill Hartin (Palmer Township resident), Harry Graack (Palmer Township land owner)**

- These gentlemen were at the meeting to discuss the proposed Tuske's new developments on Van Buren Road and the effect on Schoeneck Creek. They stated that Ann Marie Panella suggested this to them after hearing them speak at the August Supervisors meeting.
- The plans for these new developments that will directly affect the Schoeneck Creek are being evaluated in isolation from other existing development that affects it without anyone considering the cumulative effect of an additional development.
- The drying up of the creek occurs when the cement company stops pumping water out of the quarry. Dye placed in the creek have indicated that water from the Schoeneck is flowing into the quarry. The company has applied for permission to dig deeper, which could have an effect on the creek. Hartin showed the committee members photos on his phone of the dry creek bed and the creek during the flooding.
- Graack mentioned that he has been approached about creating a park on his farmland property, with trails along the creek. He stated that this would help preserve the local wildlife in this area.
- Werkheiser gave these gentlemen suggestions about who to contact about these environmental issues. Northampton County Conservations

district, Trout Unlimited, Wildlands Conservancy, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Hazard Mitigation Plan (with specific instructions to them to call Palmer Township to find out who is representing Palmer at the multi-municipal meeting and tell rep their concerns about Schoeneck flooding & drying up) (Bill shared photos on his phone of the creek near his house with a dry creek bed and one when the water was flowing rapidly.)

- Werkheiser said she would contact the Bushkill Stream Conservancy to ask for assistance and the possibility of having a Schoeneck Creek Conservancy group formed.
- **Guest**—Carol Homeyer (Palmer Township resident)
 - Showed the document that showed all the items that can be recycled now in Palmer Township
 - She said she came to the meeting after looking at the Township website
 - She came to thank the committee for accomplishing this new recycling package
 - Committee members told her that it was Cindy Oatis, the Palmer Township recycling Coordinator who deserves the thanks. A ESC member will let Cindy know.
- **APPROVAL OF July 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES —pending update with modifications specified at the meeting.**
 - Motion by Werkheiser
 - Second by Halasz
- **New Business**
 - Halasz discussed the need for a better ESC Department image than the one on the Palmer Township website; it is misleading to the user as it says "Recycle" but we are not in charge of recycling. She also requested that the ESC logos that were discussed during the May meeting be forwarded to her as one of them may be useful as part of the heading design for the Green Guides. Sciorra will email the ones she prepared.
 - All other items on the Agenda were left for the next meeting due to the lateness of this meeting.
- **Supervisor's report – Panella**
 - No report since she was not in attendance
- **Adjournment**
 - Motion by Werkheiser
 - Second by Halasz
- **Next meeting—September 22nd, 6:30 pm in the Palmer Library**