

**PALMER TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 26, 2021, 6:30 PM  
Minutes**

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

- The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 6:36 pm.
- In attendance were Ann-Marie Panella, Ginny Sciorra, Nancy Nicholas, Tyler Nemura,, Anita Forrester and Deanne Werkheiser.
- Doreen Shaffer was absent.
- Guests: Diane Halasz (Palmer Township resident), Mike Brett (Palmer Township resident), and Kate Semmons (Nurture Nature)

• **APPROVAL OF April 28, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

- Motion by Nicholas
- Second by Nemura

• **GUEST SPEAKER – Kate Semmens, Nurture Nature Center**

- Discussed Climate Action Plan
- Bethlehem hired a paid consultant
- Easton used present employees
- State has a Local Climate Action Plan Program
  - provides technical assistance
  - helps with testing
  - suggests using College students to assist
  - Has a regional plan for the 62 municipalities in the Lehigh Valley
- The plan can be revised yearly
- Decide what you want to achieve in your municipality
  - Energy efficiency
  - More green space
  - Bike trails
  - Pedestrian friendly
  - Transportation (buses)
  - Micro forests
  - Composting
  - No mono lots
  - Light rail service

• **GUEST SPEAKER – Diane Halasz, Palmer resident and past ESC member**

- Discussed the Green Guides that were previously composed and edited by previous members of the Palmer ESC committee
- She would like to have them revised and added to the ESC website

- **Bushkill Stream Conservancy – Deanna Werkheiser**

- Restoration Project to begin in June and continue until September
- Working with Trout Unlimited, Watershed Coalition, and Wildlands Conservancy
  - Plant more trees in Mill Race Park
  - remove non native plants and plant native plants (including on land owned by Lafayette College and Palmer residents)
- Discussed problem with Hercules Cement Plant plans to dig a well in the stream
  - Presently if pump stops, the Bushkill Stream dries up
  - Hearing on June 2nd
  - Hercules is calling the Bushkill Stream an intermittent stream which means it is not always filled with running water (It is not an intermittent stream—It is never dry.)
  - Karsh Geological Commission is involved (contact Tara Zsinski)
  - major sinkholes are appearing in the stream (16 feet wide) where the water is going underground

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- **New Business**

- Change meeting to 3rd Wednesday
- Change to meet in the Municipal building
- Discussed reviewing the ESC vs EAC and plan to vote on the decision

- **Supervisor's report – Panella**

- Discussed the possibility of meeting in the new room in the Palmer Township Municipal Building

- **Adjournment**

- motion by Werkheiser
- second by Nemura

- **Next meeting— June 23rd at 6:30 pm on Zoom**