

Barrett Township Environmental Advisory Council

November 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The November 17, 2020 meeting of the Barrett Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom in accordance with PA Department of Health COVID – 19 guidance.

EAC members Darryl Speicher, Kathleen Sandt, Jennifer Brown Mittereder, and Patti O’Keefe in attendance. Member Sally Duffy could not attend.

This was the first meeting of the EAC since the outbreak of the novel Corona Virus prompted social distancing in late March.

The EAC has unanimously agreed to resume regular meetings throughout 2021. Beginning on January 19, 2021 and on the third Tuesday of the month thereafter. Those dates being February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16 and December 21.

Each member and officer has agreed to stay on for 2021 in their current positions.

Discussion was held to bring members up to date on the Mill Creek and Rattlesnake Creek Coldwater Conservation plan. Including the “Greening Mountainhome” rain barrel project and the stormwater retrofits installed at the Mountainhome United Methodist Church including the pervious pavers installed as an Eagle Scout project and the subsurface stormwater retention.

There is an ongoing effort to control the invasive Japanese Knotweed along the Mill Creek.

Open Space recommendation: Now would be the ideal time for the township to mow the large field behind the Dog Park at the Gravel Family Preserve. The work done last year to control the incursion of gray birch into the field was very effective. It is the opinion of the EAC that following up that effort with the institution of a routine mowing regimen every five years will maintain the highbush blueberry and huckleberry bushes that the community has grown to enjoy. This will also have great wildlife value in keeping the fields open for greater biodiversity on the property.

The EAC commends the efforts of the Township to improve the trails and signage on the open space properties.

Patti brought it to the attention of the EAC that the PA Game Commission has recently concluded a logging operation adjacent to the Ice Lake Natural Area.

Patti also mentioned that the Township is considering purchasing a lot that abuts the recently upgraded parking lot and pavilion at Ice Lake Natural Area.

New business included a discussion about recruiting new members for the EAC by using existing online forums and the local newspapers.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

