

Barrett Township Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the January 19 meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm. It was held on-line in keeping with COVID-19 social distancing protocols.

Council members in attendance were Darryl Speicher, Kathleen Zandt, Sally Duffy, Jennifer Brown Mittereder and Patti O'Keefe.

Activities in the Township that should be considered by the EAC included the following:

Timber Harvest off of 390 North of Canadensis behind the old Martinsville Cottages. Darryl would check with the Monroe County Conservation District to see if a timber harvest plan or E and S plan have been filed for this site.

Bridge Replacement on Old Canadensis Hill Road. The Township is rightly interested in replacing this bridge prior to any work being done by the State on the bridge over the Brodhead Creek on 390. Darryl will also check with the MCCD on any plans submitted.

The status of the parking lot upgrade at Ice Lake Natural Area. The project seems to have stalled and discussion focused on the season, perhaps waiting for better weather or funding.

Report from the Brodhead Watershed Association on conductivity testing in the upper Brodhead watershed has shown the streams in Barrett Township to be remarkably clean. Conductivity is a measure of dissolved solids (salts) in the water. Streams tested in Barrett Township include the Mill Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, Buck Hill Creek, Griscom Run, Middle Branch, Leavitt Branch and Goose Pond Run. All of these streams have extremely low conductivity scores.

Discussion was held about opening a more direct dialogue with State agencies that own property in the Township in order to know when large scale management projects are going to take place in the Township, such as the clear cut conducted by the PA Game Commission adjacent to Ice Lake Natural Area. Although we recognize the importance of conducting habitat manipulation and maintenance, it would be nice to get prior notification when ed prior to work of this magnitude is to be done.

More work will be done on developing the remaining land at Seven Pines park, and although it is in Paradise Township it will have an impact on Ice Lake's ecosystem.

Open space recommendations. There are no properties currently being considered for purchase by the Township.

The EAC is interested in developing some volunteer projects on Township Open Space land including bird inventories and invasive species inventories. The bird surveys may be done in cooperation with the

Barrett Bird Club. Invasive species inventories will be done with the help of volunteers trained in invasive species identification.

Kathleen gave a report on a workshop ~~to get the~~ ~~she presented~~ ~~(attended?)~~ ~~on getting the~~ word out on preserving ecosystem services and making sure it is part of the conversation when considering open space projects. The presenters of the workshop demonstrated the power of using fact based science to make informed decisions on the recent opening of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration. The Federal Government put out a call for bids for leasing rights on the land and no bids were submitted.

~~The EAC is aware that we are short members and are aware that we need to find people willing to serve.~~

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50