

**UPPER NAZARETH TOWNSHIP**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

The first meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Nathan Pritchard.

Roll Call: Council members present were: Nathan Pritchard, George Hasker, Anton Shannon, Frank Hirst, and Brian Sayago.

Pledge of Allegiance

Having been designated as Chairman by the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Pritchard asked for nominations for additional Council officers.

Mr. Sayago stepped forward as Secretary. Mr. Pritchard moved to accept Mr. Sayago; Mr. Shannon seconded the motion.

Mr. Shannon stepped forward as Vice Chairman. Mr. Hirst moved to accept Mr. Shannon; Mr. Pritchard seconded the motion.

The Council voted to accept Mr. Sayago and Mr. Shannon in their respective capacities. The motion carried by all voting aye. (5-0)

Mr. Prichard reviewed the Ordinance which had created the Council.

Mr. Prichard noted that there were currently five members on the Council, but that there could be as many as seven. The Ordinance recommends that a member of the Township Planning Commission and a member of the Board of Supervisors be part of the Council. Mr. Pritchard also noted that it may be possible to have non-voting associate members.

Mr. Pritchard made a note of the following.

- Members of the Council will receive no compensation.
- The Council has an advisory role. Any recommendations would require approval by the Board.
- The Council does not have a budget. Any contemplated expenses would require approval by the Board.

Mr. Pritchard identified the powers of the EAC as enumerated in SECTION 7 of the Ordinance. The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) shall have the power to:

- 1) Identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs to the appropriate agencies for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within Upper Nazareth Township.
- 2) Make recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas within Upper Nazareth Township.
- 3) Promote a community environmental program.
- 4) Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including flood -prone areas, swamps and other unique natural areas, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of those areas.
- 5) Advise the Upper Nazareth Township Planning Commission, Recreation Board, Board of Supervisors, or other relevant appointed bodies within Upper Nazareth Township in the acquisition of both real and personal property by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, easement, devise or lease, in matters dealing with agricultural preservation, open space, and recreation.

Mr. Pritchard noted that at this time, the EAC does not have by-laws. He asked the members of the Council to review the sample by-laws included in the EAC Handbook, A Guide for Pennsylvania's Environmental Advisory Councils published by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC).

Mr. Pritchard asked that all the members respond to him with any recommended changes to these sample by-laws.

After revisions and approval by the EAC the by-laws will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.

The Council held a general discussion of the ways land could be preserved or maintained undeveloped land. These included:

- Purchase
- Purchase of development rights
- State, county, township farmland preservation programs

Mr. Pritchard noted that the Upper Nazareth Township Recreation, parks and Open Space Master Plan (Plan) includes on page 36 a scoring methodology to evaluate proposals. The applicability of this methodology will be evaluated over the coming meetings.

## **COURTESEY OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. Sayago commented that the Plan includes three broad missions for the Council. These are farmland preservation, establishment of parks, and establishment of trails. He suggested that prioritization might be necessary.

Mr. Shannon noted that 50 acres is the minimum size for farmland preservation under most Northampton County programs. Smaller parcels might be considered under a township program.

Mr. Sayago asked if we could develop an inventory of land parcels in the township and if this might be useful in identifying open space opportunities.

Mr. Scott Sylvainus (a Township supervisor present as an observer) suggested we obtain the Traffic Impact study completed a number of years ago. He suggested we might obtain a copy from Sean Dooley of Keystone Engineers.

Mr. Pritchard noted that a map developed for the purpose of farmland preservation may be available from the County.

Mr. Sylvainus stated that parcels identified on the UNT official map might give the Township the right of first refusal on any sale.

Mr. Sayago suggested we have someone from Bushkill township come to our next meeting to discuss how we can benefit from their experience.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Since this was the first meeting, no old business was applicable.

Prior to adjournment Mr. Pritchard identified the following actions.

All members will review the sample by-laws and submit any suggested changes to Mr. Pritchard by October 11 for discussion at the October 18 EAC meeting.

Mr. Sayago will contact Sean Dooley of Keystone Engineers to obtain the Traffic Impact study. The plan is to have the Study by the next meeting.

Mr. Pritchard will contact Northampton County to obtain any maps developed for the purpose of farmland preservation.

Mr. Pritchard will contact Jason Smith or another representative of Bushkill Township and extend an invitation to attend our next meeting.

The next meeting will be on October 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Township building.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hasker, seconded by Mr. Hirst and approved by the five members.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Sayago Secretary