

West Vincent Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
January 4, 2017

Attending: Don Cook, Jane Helm, Victoria Laubach, Christy Martin, Suzanne Roth, Harriet Stone.

Others: David Brown, Brian Curry, Sara Shick.

The meeting was called to order by Suzanne Roth at 5:38 P.M.

**MOTION: The minutes were approved as corrected.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Jane Helm; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Don Cook**                      **Passed**

Harriet asked why the BOS did not consult with the EAC prior to approving the changes to Weatherstone's plan for the commercial area yet to be developed? Although our objections were stated in the last minutes, Suzanne will contact Erica, to confirm our objections.

Suzanne received an e-mail from Erica today. Neither, EAC or Sustainability were reappointed during the reorganization meeting of the BOS. The BOS is contemplating making changes to the committees that advise them; specifically, a possible merger between EAC & Sustainability. She suggested we discuss it this evening. Also, Vic Laubach & Christy Martin's terms were not renewed so they are welcome to participate in our discussion but not vote.

The BOS feels that the two committees overlap. EAC's mission is defined by the state. Sustainability works directly with the township government and help set goals on Energy, Environment, Economics, and engages in Education. They have recently refreshed their plans and last night presented a 65-item plan to the BOS. (Recommend that all read this plan.)

Discussion: If Sustainability could work like Historic Resources with a member reporting on what they are doing, it might work well. We are a committee of seven (7) and like that number. Sustainability has a committee of nine (9) and that would be too cumbersome for us. Don feels that this proposal might be more efficient and would lead to less burnout of volunteers. We need to reach out to new members of the community. Young families are overwhelmed with crazy schedules. We need to search for volunteers.

Harriet thinks that Erica could combine our reports (EAC with HRC + Sustainability) into hers at the BOS meetings. A member of the various committees could be present to answer questions and this would also educate township residents about all of our work.

Suzanne will call Ben James and Kip Archenol and Harriet will call Sam Cantrell, Nicole Keegan and Bernie Kouris regarding their opinions on this matter.

**MOTION: The EAC requests more time from the BOS to discuss and research this matter further before rendering an opinion.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Jane Helm; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Harriet Stone**                      **Passed**

**MOTION: Suzanne Roth will continue as interim chair until the committee is recognized by the BOS.**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Jane Helm; 2<sup>nd</sup> : Harriet Stone      Passed**

Matters are moving forward with Natural Lands Trust on the Bryn Coed property. The township is working with Lennar/Toll on the trails at Byers Station/Eagle Farms.

Jane's poll: She sees a lot of consensus among our members regarding the queried items. She is going to consolidate the information and present it at the next meeting. She will reach out to members via email to confirm their thoughts. Does the township have a GPS device for marking trees? Does the township have a drone that could help monitor different trees within the township?

The EAC and the township need to put some boots on the ground to monitor events that may occur after hours within the township (ex., flooding, wind damage).

We would like Erica, via Tammy, to inform us of any reports that come into the township that affects our committee. (We did not receive the Regional Planning report regarding the Weatherstone changes.) That way we can review items as they occur and not have a delay of discussions.

We need to put together an annual report for the BOS of our actions during the last year. This will include the recommendations made buy the EAC to the BOS. Tammy, after approval of the BOS and township manager, could put this up on the township website under the EAC so residents would know what we are doing.

Suzanne will talk with Erica tomorrow about our discussions of this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.