

MEETING SUMMARY

Longswamp Township EAC Meeting
March 18, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Kate Harms, Peter G. Saenger, Lee Ann C. Saenger

Board Supervisor Representative: Joyce Marin (absent)

Absent: Scott Swackhamer, Nicole Miller

Guests: Glen Cooper

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ms. Harms.

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – The Committee reviewed the Minutes of February 18, 2019; Ms. Harms made a motion to approve the Minutes, Mr. Saenger seconded the motion. Voice vote followed motion, all in favor. Minutes approved.
- II. **General Information** – Mr. Cooper shared information relative to the Emerald Ash Borer, and how the same has become an issue in the Township. It was noted that injections may be given directly into the tree, to save the same, however, the cost is about \$300.00, per tree.

Mr. Saenger added that the Township needs to consider notifying homeowners that they are responsible for their trees, especially the dead and dying trees along the roadways. When said Ash trees go down, they will fall whole, because they are decayed at the bottom.

Native Plan Ordinance – A review was held of the proposed Native Plant Ordinance; all three (3) members were okay with it, as well as Mr. Cooper.

Ms. Harms noted that the list of plants wasn't compared with the DCNR list, which is much larger.

Mr. Saenger suggested taking the list of non-native plants to local nurseries, explain the ordinance to them, and ask them to stop selling the same, and to encourage the sale of native plants.

Ms. Harms made a motion to give the Plant Ordinance to Ms. Marin, to present to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Saenger seconded the motion. Voice vote followed the motion, all in favor.

- III. **Wind Ordinance** – Ms. Harms noted that wind turbines are a huge problem for migratory birds, and bats in particular. Additionally, wildlife habitat along a forested ridge is being destroyed for the turbines.

It was agreed that the Penn Forest Township Wind Turbine Zoning Ordinance needed to be read carefully, by everyone on the EAC, before presenting the same to the community.

Mr. Saenger will email the same to all members, and ask that it be read before the next meeting.

Ms. Harms shared that homeowners have more control over their personal wind turbines, and can regulate the speed, which can be reduced during bat migration, thereby saving their lives.

IV. Solar Ordinance – Ms. Harms is going to email Jennifer Wassell-Bonser for the current ordinance. Mr. Saenger questioned why the Township’s ordinances are not on line, indicating it would be much easier to review the same if they were on line.

V. Miscellaneous Concerns – Mr. Saenger noted that one of our biggest problems is with keeping Jaiendl out of the Township; further stating that we do not need another development, and our infrastructure could not handle it.

Mr. Cooper shared his concerns relative to the amount of smoke that is generated by the new wood burning furnaces – questioning whether there is an EPA requirement, and are these furnaces compliant?

Mr. Saenger stated that education is key – more information should be placed in the newsletter so that the community will understand.

Mr. Saenger reflected that the Hardie Board is the gift that keeps on giving. Ms. Harms noted that the same was sold on Facebook, and the money generated was used for the Purple Martin houses.

Mr. Saenger shared that he met with the Science Chairperson from Brandywine Area School District, and they will work together to educate the students about the Purple Martin houses, so that future generations will benefit.

Mr. Cooper shared, that while working in Bethlehem, radon was a concern, and people need to know their environment. Ms. Harms, and Mr. Saenger indicated that they have radon systems in their homes.

Mr. Cooper further shared that lead paint is an issue, and young new homeowners need to be educated on this matter, especially because some old paints were 50% lead. Mr. Saenger suggested that Mr. Cooper write an article on this, for the newsletter, because it would be great to get this information out to the community.

Ms. Harms shared that for the up-coming Swampfest, we could print, and distribute materials on the same, and that Jenny needs newsletter material, and would welcome an article from Mr. Cooper. Mr. Saenger shared that the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society will have a stand at Swampfest, and will have information for the community on bird window collisions.

VI. Upcoming Projects - The cleanup intended for April 28th, will have to be rescheduled. Ms. Harms, and the Saengers will not be available on that date. It was suggested that the cleanup be placed on hold, and instead concentrate on cleaning up the rain garden, which was established about six (6) years ago; additionally, the bat

boxes need to be cleared of shrubs, and vines, or the bats won't use it. Mr. Saenger suggested asking Scott, from the Township, if they could assist with that endeavor.

VII. Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, Mr. Cooper, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Harms, seconded the motion. Voice vote followed motion, all in favor. Motion approved.

Next meeting date: April 15, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in the Longswamp Township Board conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Harms
Chairperson