MINUTES

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 14, 2020**

PRESENT: Austin P. Henry, Chairperson; Nanette Bennett, Peggy G. Jayme, Thomas J. Murphy, Jay S. Troutman, Donald H. Newman, Walter A. Scott, III, Members; Paul R. Bell, Code Official; John Heyl, P.E., CPESC, Borough Engineer; Shawn Peterson, Borough Secretary

ALSO

PRESENT: Jerry Nist, Chris Schmidt, Hampton Technical Associates, Inc.; Jason Hurwitz, Fox Chapel Golf Club; 12 residents

Mr. Henry called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on October 12, 2020, be approved as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry noted that it would be best to flip the agenda items and review Application No. 20-8 first with the interest of time and efficiency.

NEW BUSINESS:

Application No. 20-8: Glade Run Farm Trust

608 Squaw Run Road East

Proposed Construction of a New Pool and Pool House

Mr. Nist from Hampton Technical Associates, Inc. gave a brief review of the project and answered questions regarding the project. A few questions were asked about concerns of the level spreader sheeting out and the soil stability. An Infiltration Analysis was conducted. During the Infiltration Analysis, bedrock and clay soil were encountered, so Hampton Tech requested EAC approval of amending its application to the Borough for an extended detention facility with no infiltration.

Mr. Heyl from LSSE stated that he did receive the resubmission. The only outstanding item for this property at the moment is that Hampton Technical Associates, Inc. is requesting a waiver for the level spreader and the geotechnical report relative to the spreader. Mr. Heyl stated that he is not concerned about the soil's stability or slides into the stream due to the wooded area between the wetland and the stream.

Ms. Bennett asked if the sanitary sewer lateral will need to be relocated. Mr. Nist confirmed that the sanitary sewer lateral would need to be relocated to run around the pool house, tying back into the property's line.

Ms. Jayme asked if tree number 20, which is listed as a 26" Oak tree, was close to the limit of disturbance and if the tree canopy and root system would be affected. Mr. Nist stated that if the tree were in the way, turning the pool house a few feet towards the back would be possible.

Mr. Newman asked if the level spreader needed to be bigger due to the change to a detention facility. Mr. Schmidt from Hampton Tech said that the level spreader's dimensions did not increase due to the rate of discharge meeting a two-year storm discharge requirement. The level spreader discharge rate for the design event is 0.05 CFS, which is well within the PADEP BMP criteria for level spreaders.

Mr. Newman stated another concern he had on the downstream slope from the level spreader being greater than the PADEP MBP Manual criteria of 6-8%. He noticed that Hampton Tech had placed an anti-erosion stability control mat at the crest of the hill per the PADEP design criteria. He asked if the EAC was required to grant a complete waiver from the PADEP BMP requirements on the downstream slope. Mr. Heyl stated that a discharge to a 10% and steeper slope was acceptable due to the level spreader’s design and limited discharge rate. Mr. Heyl noted that he would recommend granting the waiver for the level spreader, based on the test results.

Following review and discussion, it was moved by Mr. Murphy that Application No. 20-8 be recommended to Council for approval as submitted, including a waiver for the use of a level spreader, and contingent upon the following:

* Submission of acceptable field infiltration study
* Taking any reasonable action to save tree no. 20
* Waiver for the use of a level spreader
* Waiver for the standard geotechnical report for slope stability

The motion was seconded by Mr. Newman and passed by a unanimous vote.

Tree Removal Request: Fox Chapel Golf Club

TR-20-186 426 Fox Chapel Road

Proposed Removal of 72 Trees

Jason Hurwitz from the Fox Chapel Golf Club presented a PowerPoint on the history of the Golf Club. He informed the EAC that 72 trees were proposed to be removed. There are 27 dead/dying or undesirable species and 46 desirable hardwood shade trees, nine of which are dead and dying. The Golf Club is committing to 129 new trees, 40 new hardwood shade trees, and overall, the 129 new trees will consist of 39 different species/varieties of trees. Mr. Hurwitz stated that he had put a lot of time and effort into this plan and noted that the Club is committed to the “Walk in the Park” experience throughout the property.

Mr. Henry began by stating that removing 31 oaks with a diameter of 30” or greater concerns the EAC significantly. In 2017, the Golf Club submitted a replanting plan to the Borough with a commitment to replace 131 trees. There is a remaining 111 trees to be installed in the next two years from the 131 tree commitment. The 129 new trees to be planted from this request would include the 111 trees already committed to in 2017. Therefore, the Golf Club is adding only 18 new trees.

It was mentioned that the Borough recommends a one-to-one replanting plan. Mr. Hurwitz stated that in the past six years, the Club had installed 150 trees that were not included in another request. It was asked of Mr. Hurwitz if he, as an employee of the Golf Club, had the authority to submit this plan to the EAC on behalf of the Club. Mr. Hurwitz stated that he does have the authority to submit and present this Application on behalf of the Golf Club and that the tree removal plan has also been shared with the Club's committees and accepted by the Board.

Following the review and discussion of trees that are to be removed, it was moved by Mr. Newman that Tree Removal Request TR-20-186 be recommended to Council for approval with the following trees to be removed: 2, 4, 10, 11, 15, 18, 19, two trees from 26-29, 31, 33, 34-45 except for 39, eight trees from 46-56, 70, 71, and 72. The 26 trees marked as “Tree Sick/Dying” on the Application can be removed contingent upon an Arborist for the applicant certifying that they are dead or dying. This decision is also contingent upon the annual submission of an end-of-year status report from the Fox Chapel Golf Club on trees removed and trees replanted until the replanting of all trees has been fulfilled. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bennett and passed by a unanimous vote. All hardwood trees removed that are not certified by an Arborist as “Tree Sick/Dying” must have replacement hardwoods replanted at a 1:1 ratio with a credit for the 18 trees that the FCGC has ordered and is replanting over and above the 111 tree replanting commitment that remained outstanding prior to this Application.

The Application is denied as to tree removals, other than those which are expressly recommended above, without prejudice to the applicant’s ability to reapply at an appropriate future time when replacement can be accomplished within the times required in the NRAPO.

There being no other business to come before the EAC, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 PM.

SHAWN M. PETERSON

Borough Secretary