



BOROUGH OF
FOX CHAPEL
PENNSYLVANIA

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
February 14, 2022
MINUTES

PRESENT: Austin P. Henry, Chairman; Nanette Bennett, Peggy G. Jayme, Donald H. Newman, Members; John Heyl, Borough Engineer; Kelsey Mersing, Borough Administrative Assistant

VIA ZOOM: Thomas J. Murphy, Walter A. Scott III, Members; Paul R. Bell, Code Official; Jerry Nist, Chris Schmidt, Hampton Technical Associates, Inc.; Sarah Hanna; and three additional attendees

ALSO PRESENT: William Tippins; Michael Pohl; Christina Hoenig

ABSENT: Jay S. Troutman, Member

Mr. Henry called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the meeting held on January 10, 2022, be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

<u>Environmental Disturbance Application:</u>	William C. Tippins
22-01	109 Hickory Hill Road
	Construction of a New Single-family Residence

Jerry Nist and Chris Schmidt from Hampton Technical Associates, Inc. were in attendance to answer questions relative to the construction of a new single-family residence at 109 Hickory Hill Road with associated drives and stormwater facilities. The application also includes the proposal to remove 131 trees over 6" DBH.

The applicant is seeking a waiver from the restriction of 25% of steep slope areas containing moderate risk and a waiver on very steep slopes containing low or moderate risk where the permitted amount is 15% disturbance. The application proposes disturbance of 95.6% of steep slopes containing moderate risk, 77.05% of very steep slopes with low risk and 58.4% of very steep slopes with moderate risk. John Heyl, Borough Engineer, indicated the disturbance is acceptable given the geotechnical report.

There was a discussion regarding the detention facility composed of perforated pipe and its functionality with the underdrain that ties into the level spreader. Mr. Schmidt explained the perforated

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pipe drains out around the tank and there is a low flow orifice that allows the water to go at the invert of the facility so there would not be standing water for an extended period after it's released. The underdrain ties in behind the weir plate in the outlet structure. It does not directly drain through the underdrain. The level spreader is solely fed by the outflow from the box on the other side of the weir plate and the flow out of the level spreader is de minimis which alleviated concerns pertaining to the location and discharge of the level spreader.

It was discussed that the project requires clear-cutting as defined under the Borough's Natural Resources Ordinance. The consensus of the EAC was that the removal of the trees was necessary for the project and would be mitigated by the stormwater facilities and the landscape/tree replanting plan.

Ms. Jayme reiterated that according to the ordinance all trees are supposed to be marked and numbered appropriately on the site which helps when referencing trees in the discussion of an application. Ms. Jayme noted there are two oaks on the left side of the property that are big and worth trying to save. Additionally, there are a lot of Wild Cherry trees which are one of the first trees that will reforest a disturbed property. They have both wildlife and stormwater management value.

Mr. Nist offered to get a landscape architect involved to provide a plan. Ms. Bennett added the EAC, once there is a numbering system or a plan, can begin to look at reasonable replacements for substantial trees.

Following review and discussion it was moved by Ms. Bennett that Environmental Disturbance Application No. 22-01 be recommended for approval by Borough Council as submitted with the following conditions:

- A waiver for disturbance up to 96.5% for 553 square feet area of steep slopes with moderate risk.
- A waiver, with two parts, for disturbance of 58.4% for limited area of 100 square feet of very steep slopes with moderate risk and disturbance of 77.05% for 5,916 square feet of very steep slopes with low risk—all being in front of the proposed structure.
- A waiver permitting the level spreader as designed.
- Contingent upon the submission of a landscape plan including a tree replanting plan and assessment for reasonably saving additional trees scheduled for removal on originally submitted plan.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Jayme and passed by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:06 PM, the EAC adjourned into Executive Session to meet with and interview applicants for the vacant EAC position. At 8:40 PM, the meeting was reconvened.

There being no other business to come before the EAC, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

KELSEY M. MERSING
Administrative Assistant