



FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING January 8, 2024 MINUTES

- PRESENT:** Austin P. Henry, Chairman; Nanette Bennett, Brenda McEver, Donald H. Newman, Jay S. Troutman, Members; Dan Moretti, Zoning Administrator; John Heyl, Borough Engineer; Kelsey Mersing, Borough Administrative Assistant
- VIA ZOOM:** Peggy G. Jayme, Member; Greg Gorman, PVE, LLC; Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Gary J. Koehler, Borough Manager; Ron Bianchini; Richard Wendell
- ALSO PRESENT:** Michael Leckie, LBA Landscape Architecture; Tiffany Thomas, Brian Bieber, Brian Rutkowski, Duquesne Light Company; Corey Olcheske, Ken Venzke, Wright Tree Service; Sarah Hanna, Borough Council Liaison; Jonathan Colton, Bradley D. Harrison, Frederick Leech, Borough Council
- ABSENT:** Thomas J. Murphy, Member

Mr. Henry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

It was moved by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Jayme that the minutes from the meeting held on September 11, 2023, be approved as submitted. The motion passed with Mr. Troutman abstaining due to his absence from the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Duquesne Light Company Presentation

Tiffany Thomas and Brian Bieber from Duquesne Light Company presented plans for the current cycle of vegetation management work to clear overgrown trees, shrubs, and brush around the company's transmission and distribution lines in areas of the Borough. Work for the project will take place between January 22 to December 31, 2024.

Ms. Thomas, with input from Mr. Bieber, described the notification process for impacted residents and best practices used in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) standards for safely managing the vegetation. Information presented can be referenced on the Duquesne Light website: duquesnelight.com/customer-support/trees-power-lines.

There was additional discussion regarding the marked trees in front of Shady Side Academy Middle School along Riding Meadow Road. Due to the number of trees marked and concern for the tree canopy and stormwater absorption capabilities, the EAC would like to be informed of any activity as the Borough requires.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

January 8, 2024

Page 2

EAC Application:
24-01

Fox Chapel Racquet Club
Submitted by PVE, LLC
355 Hunt Road
Proposed Pickleball Courts

Greg Gorman from PVE, LLC was in attendance to present the application for the removal of an existing tennis court area and installation of pickleball facilities at the most northeastern portion of the property adjacent to Hemlock Hollow Road. The project would replace the Har-Tru court surface with an asphalt playing surface, reducing the total impervious area. One tree over 6" DBH is proposed for removal, with several understory trees selected for replanting. The applicant is seeking a waiver of the requirement to provide a geotechnical report.

There was discussion regarding the concern for the safety of pedestrians on the trail as the access for the site would be off Hemlock Hollow Road and the recommendation for the installation of a reasonable stormwater facility.

Mr. Henry acknowledged that the Club was effectively grandfathered relative to impervious surface and stormwater detention by its existing tennis courts but advised that in multiple site visits, he observed that this is a very wet area and that it would be in the Club's best interest to install reasonable stormwater detention facilities, at least for the new asphalt surface areas. Mr. Gorman stated that the current application complies with the Ordinance. Mr. Henry acknowledged that and stated that stormwater detention was not a requirement but a recommendation and that he hopes the Club would consider it, as it would go a long way to keeping the area drier.

The Borough engineer agreed with the recommendation for the Council to approve the waiver of the geotechnical report as there are no significant grading changes. The only request from the engineer is a final set of sealed plans provided to the Borough.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Troutman moved that Environmental Disturbance Application No. 24-01 be recommended for approval by Borough Council as submitted subject to the engineering requirements outlined in the LSSE letter dated January 8, 2024. Also subject to the submission of a crossing procedure or safety plan relative to the crossing of the trail, as well as a recommendation that the Applicant consider the inclusion of stormwater management facilities.

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

EAC Application:
24-02

Ron and Emily Bianchini
Submitted by LBA Landscape Architecture
724 Fairview Road
Proposed Pickleball Court

Michael Leckie from LBA Landscape Architecture was in attendance to present the application for 724 Fairview Road. The plan proposes the construction of a pickleball court with associated stormwater management facilities. The application also includes the proposal to remove 9 trees over 6"

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

January 8, 2024

Page 3

DBH, with 11 trees to be replanted—3 Red Bud, 3 Norway Spruce, and 5 Hemlock. The applicant is seeking a waiver of the requirement to provide a geotechnical report.

There was discussion regarding the structure of the proposed retaining wall, as well as the design and functionality of the infiltration trench.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Troutman moved that Environmental Disturbance Application No. 24-02 be recommended for approval by Borough Council as submitted subject to submission and approval by the engineer for the retaining wall design and stability analysis. And with a denial of the waiver request for the geotechnical report.

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

There being no other business to come before the EAC, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

KELSEY M. MERSING
Administrative Assistant