

Borough of Hellertown
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 14, 2019

- I. Call to Order – Thomas Rieger, 6:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge - All
- III. Roll Call – Cathy Hartranft

Earl Hill-	Present
James Hill-	Present
Andrew Hughes-	Present
Michael McKenna-	Present
Thomas Rieger-	Present
Gil Stauffer-	Present
Philip Weber-	Present
Mayor Heintzelman-	Present

Also in attendance were Tom Henshaw, Cathy Hartranft, Christine Mildner, and Angie Bauer. Michael Corriere, Chief Shupp, Kris Russo, and Bryan Smith were absent with prior notification.

- IV. Discussion on MS-4 Permit

Mr. Rieger- This permit application is for our second 5-year permit.

Ms. Mildner- The DEP's largest concern for this round of permits is reducing the amount of sediment being discharged into the water ways. It is referred as a Pollution Reduction Plan. They are mandating a reduction of 10 percent of sediment and 5 percent reduction in Phosphorous. The three waterways of concern for the Borough are Saucon Creek, Silver Creek, and Polk Valley Run. The Lehigh River is included on the Borough's list because that is where the three streams discharge to. While these are unfunded mandates, they are allowing municipalities to take credit for existing BMPs. The total sediment required to be removed are 42,498 pounds for Saucon Creek, 45,526 pounds for Silver Creek, and 7,057 pounds for Polk Valley Run. All project areas will have to fall under an acre in disturbance or additional permits are required.

For Saucon Creek, outfall #3 exits at the end of Thomas Avenue. The water could be rerouted to discharge into the Thomas Iron Works site. The Borough was already looking into improving that area. The two options that seem feasible for this area are to plant a series of rain gardens for the water to filter through or turn the area into a wetland. A study would need to be done on the slag on site, including core samples.

Mrs. Hartranft- A study was completed a few years ago when the Borough was looking to remove the slag which already included core samples. She will forward the study onto Ms. Mildner.

Mr. Rieger noted that the property was purchased with Project 70 funds and some research would need to be done to see what changes could be made to the property.

Ms. Mildner- Another option would be to put an overflow on the outfall to redirect the water. There are not rules against moving the existing slag onto other areas of the site. These improvements could be the beginning phase to a bigger passive recreation area.

Mayor Heintzelman expressed his concern regarding how fast the stream bank of the Saucon Creek is being eroded. Ms. Mildner suggested installing bank pins to track the speed of the erosion and then use the results to try and obtain funding to the repair the stream bank.

For Silver Creek, an option would be to remove the asphalt along the swale that runs along Dimmick Park and plant the swale with a rain garden. To avoid the plantings to be washed away, check dams can be added to slow the water. Mr. Rieger noted that with the additional plantings and standing water, there would be more bugs which could ruin the enjoyment of the park. The rain garden could be planted further downstream but that would require a partnership with Silver Creek Country Club. Streambank restoration would be another option but probably not the best choice. Both sides of the stream would need to be restored. Rip rap and other hard armoring cannot be used. A DEP permit would be required for this option. Another option would be to install a baffle box at the end of Cherry Street to catch the sediment. The box has manholes on the top to clean out the sediment. The Borough would need to borrow/purchase a street vacuum to clean it out. Baffle boxes don't hold any water. They act more like a filter and the

sediment is trapped on top. If the former Reinhard site is improved, a BMP could be installed.

Mr. Weber- There was talk a number of years ago to add an additional bend to Silver Creek at Authority Park to try and slow down the water flow. Mr. Henshaw will look for the report. Ms. Mildner would like to look at the plan but noted that by adding that additional bend it would create a lot of erosion further down when the water turns back.

Mr. Henshaw noted that there was already a study completed for stormwater improvements on Magnolia Road.

For Polk Valley Run, it is a little more of a challenge since it not on Borough property. It is located on the cemetery property. However, it is already planted which acts as a buffer. The requirement of a thirty-five foot buffer is already complete. This option would require the Borough to enter into a conservation agreement for a minimum of 20 years. The other option would be to install a baffle box in the parking lot of the shopping center which would be much more expensive.

Ms. Midler would recommend that Council approve a resolution to adopt the plan after the public comment period is complete. If the plans would have to be altered significantly, the process would have to start all over. These will be ongoing projects. Council will need to budget for upkeep or reinstallation as needed. For example, if plantings were done and they died out, they would need to be replanted.

There are potential funding sources available. A lot of municipalities will be applying for the DEP Growing Greener Grants so it will be very competitive. I would also recommend the Borough apply for a Penn Vest Green Initiatives Grant. To help with the cost of maintenance, the Borough could try and get community involvement. Many students need community service credits to graduate. You could also try and have businesses adopt one of the BMPs.

Mr. Rieger inquired how the Borough will prove the BMPs efficiency. Ms. Milder noted that when the BMPs are cleaned an approximate measurement would need to be taken and maintenance schedule kept. If the sediment is contaminated, it would need to be disposed of at the landfill. If the sediment is clean, it can be used elsewhere.

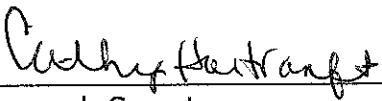
Ms. Mildner- After the discussions held tonight, a full report will be available by the end of the week. The next step is to put together the appendixes and then having the final report posted for a 30 day comment period. It will then get submitted to the DEP. After the final plan is submitted, we can get a cost estimate together for internal use.

Ms. Mildner and Mrs. Hartranft will be attending the Saucon Valley Watershed Meeting. Council and staff will go on site visits. Mrs. Hartranft will forward a copy of the Thomas Iron Works study and the Magnolia Plan for stormwater improvements to Barry Isett & Associates. Mr. Henshaw will forward a copy of the proposed plan for a floodplain in Authority Park.

V. Adjournment

Motion made by Philip Weber, seconded by Earl Hill, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Adopted by the Hellertown Borough Council this 22nd Day of January 2019.



Borough Secretary