



FOX CHAPEL

BOROUGH

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2024 MINUTES

PRESENT: Austin P. Henry, Chairman; Nanette Bennett, Thomas J. Murphy, Donald H. Newman, Members; Dan Moretti, Zoning Administrator; David Kovac, Borough Engineer; Kelsey Mersing, Borough Administrative Assistant

VIA ZOOM: Peggy G. Jayme, Member; Leonard White, KU Resources Inc.; Anna Regoli; Ron Zampogna

ALSO PRESENT: Justin McKay, John Butler, Derek Buganza, Pittsburgh Field Club; Catherine Mettenburg

ABSENT: Brenda McEver, Jay S. Troutman, Members

Mr. Henry called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

It was moved by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Murphy that the minutes from the meeting held on September 9, 2024, be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Removal Application: Pittsburgh Field Club
TR-24-139 121 Field Club Road (Parcel No. 289-A-35)
Submitted by Justin McKay, *Golf Course Superintendent*
Removal of 7 Trees

Justin McKay, Golf Course Superintendent, from the Pittsburgh Field Club, was in attendance to answer questions relative to the removal of 7 Oak trees over 6" DBH.

Mr. McKay gave a brief overview of the trees to be removed. Tree #1 overhangs the fairway, resulting in turf decline. The tree has been pruned, but it still obstructs the playability of the first hole. Trees #2 and #3 are grouped in a line of 4 trees, all of which are entwined with one another. Removing these middle trees will help promote the health of the remaining two trees. Tree #4 is a safety concern. It was struck by lightning several years ago and is in degradation. Tree #5 hangs directly over the 10th green. Because of the encroachment and litter from the tree onto the green, the turf conditions are declining. Last, trees #6 and #7, located near Fairway Lane, were struck by lightning and have shown signs of hollow cavities. The club intends to replant 7 Black Tupelo trees in a large open area near the 12th hole along Fairway Lane that will eventually act as screening from the neighboring property.

Ms. Jayme and Ms. Bennett, who visited the site to review the trees in person, agreed with the reasoning behind removing them.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Newman moved that Tree Removal Application TR-24-139, including the replanting plan with 7 properly spaced Tupelo trees, be recommended for approval by the Borough Council as submitted.

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

EAC Application: Anna Regoli
24-04 Lot 313-R Old Indian Trail (Parcel No. 621-P-11)
Submitted by Leonard White, *PE-KU Resources, Inc.*
Proposed Construction of Single-Family Dwelling

Leonard White from KU Resources, Inc. was in attendance to present the application for the construction of a single-family residence, driveway, and stormwater management facilities at an existing vacant lot located northeast of the Fox Chapel Road/Old Indian Trail Court intersection. The applicant proposes removing 93 trees over 6" DBH, six of which are deemed dead.

The applicant is requesting a modification to permit disturbance of more than 25% of steep slopes with moderate landslide-prone risk up to 61%, and a modification to permit disturbance of more than 15% of very steep slopes with moderate landslide-prone risk up to 35% and 53.5% of very steep slopes with low risk. The applicant is also requesting a waiver from the limitation on the height of the retaining wall from six feet to nine feet.

There was an in-depth discussion regarding the bio-retention area and elevation of the outfall structure. Mr. Henry also pointed out the drawings do not show a connection between the roof leaders and the storm sewer. There was further discussion about the wall design and stability of the proposed retaining wall.

A replanting plan was not submitted with this application. Ms. Jayme noted that the tree list provided was not accurate in terms of labeling, species, and sizes. Though not formally requested, the applicant requests a waiver on the prohibition of clear-cutting, so a formal replanting plan, as with any application, is necessary.

The EAC requested that the applicant provide a supplemental geotechnical opinion clarifying the stability of the wall and soils and the stability of the detention facility post-construction. The applicant should also submit an amended drawing showing the roof leader connections and a detailed replanting plan for proper evaluation.

Following review and discussion, Mr. Murphy moved that Environmental Disturbance Application No. 24-04 be tabled until the December meeting.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Henry received an email from Betsy Monroe, Borough Council Member and Finance & Administration Director for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, requesting a letter of support on behalf of the EAC for the Audubon Society's submission of a grant application.

Ms. Jayme moved that the EAC provide a letter of support for this endeavor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and passed by unanimous vote.

Prior to the November meeting, the EAC was notified that the Tree Committee is seeking an additional person to help with tree removal applications and approvals. Based on her background and knowledge, Ms. Jayme recommended that the Environmental Advisory Council appoint Cate Mettenburg to the committee.

Ms. Jayme moved that Cate Mettenburg be appointed to the Tree Committee of the Environmental Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newman and passed by unanimous vote.

There being no other business to come before the EAC, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

KELSEY M. MERSING
Administrative Assistant