

Minutes of the Council of the City of Easton, Pa.

May 10, 2023

Easton, Pa
Wednesday
May 10, 2023
6:00 p.m.

City Council met in stated session at the above date and time, at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead Street, Easton, Pa., to consider any business that may lawfully be brought before the body.

The invocation was given by Mayor Panto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance,

ROLL CALL

Present: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto (7)
Absent: None (0)

Also, participating in the meeting were Rita M. Messa, City Clerk, Mark Lysynecky, Finance Director, David Hopkins, Director of Public Works and Jeremy Clark, Asst. City Solicitor. At the beginning of the meeting there were fourteen (14) other participants present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on motion of Mr. Brown seconded by Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yeas: Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown (7)
Nays: None (0)

ACTION ON THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. O'Connell seconded by Dr. Ruggles to approve the April 26, 2023 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by the following vote.

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)
Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There was no public comment at this time.

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CONSENT AGENDA

The following items on the Consent Agenda were approved on motion of Dr. Ruggles seconded by Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Bill No. 19 (Ord. 5823) – Creating a New Chapter 189, Animals of the Code of the City of Easton

Resolution 58-2023 – Approval to apply for Health Walk Works Grant (\$35,000)

Resolution 59-2023 – Approving Agreement with Men's Senior Baseball League

Resolution 60-2023 – Approving Agreement with Easton Women's Softball League

Resolution 61-2023 – Approving Agreement with Blue Eagle Swim Team

Resolution 62-2023 – Approving Agreement with Easton Aquatic Club

Before the vote was taken, Dr. Ruggles asked about the Resolution approving the Health Walk Works Grant with regards to it stating that Council will adopt the resulting plan. Dr. Ruggles concern was that Council has not received any plan at this time. Mr. Clark addressed Dr. Ruggles concern by stating that Council can turn down the grant if the plan is not acceptable.

Also, Dr. Ruggles asked about the Men's Senior Baseball League and the Women's Softball League agreements. Dr. Ruggles asked why there is such a difference regarding in-kind services.

Mr. Hopkins addressed Dr. Ruggles questions stating that the Women's Softball League has a "higher level" of play. There was a brief discussion on this matter with further explanation.

Dr. Ruggles also asked about the amount of insurance that each has to provide. Dr. Ruggles believes that each should provide a minimum of \$2,000,000 in insurance. Dr. Ruggles also stated that the Swim Teams that use Heil Pool should also have to provide a minimum of \$2,000,000 of insurance as well.

Mr. Hopkins stated that this can be done.

The Consent Agenda was then approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto (7)

Nays: None (0)

REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

Fire Department Report for April, 2023

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REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, had no report but he did ask Mr. Lysynecky to give a brief report on the 2021 Audit (copy attached hereto). Mr. Lysynecky went over the “highlights” of the audit and stated that the final report would be presented soon.

Mr. O’Connell asked if the Home Rule Charter specifies a deadline for presentation of the audit. It does not.

Dr. Ruggles stated that he wanted to let everyone know that this audit was in the time period of COVID and that this was a very tough time for everyone and still the City came up with a surplus of \$179,000.

Mr. O’Connell, Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee, had no report.

Mrs. Sultana, Chairperson of the Planning and Code Committee stated that she would be having a Committee Meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 to discuss the issue of “Chickens” in the City.

Dr. Ruggles, Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, had no report.

Mr. Edinger, Chairperson of the Public Works Committee, spoke about the legislation that he would have later in the meeting.

Mr. Melan, Chairperson of the Administration Committee stated that there was a committee meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 to discuss some future changes which will require the City’s legal team to do reviews of items before they come to Council.

Mr. Clark, Asst. City Solicitor, had no report.

Mayor Panto stated that there will be a Homecoming Concert in Centre Square on Saturday, May 13, 2023 featuring Carmen John Boscia and Dee Roscioli. Mayor Panto spoke about each of their accomplishments.

Mayor Panto gave a brief update on the 4th Street Parking Garage.

Mayor Panto stated that at the next meeting he would be introducing some changes to the City’s Zoning Ordinance. One of those changes will be lowering building limit heights – except by variance. Mayor Panto spoke briefly on this matter.

Mayor Panto stated that the Bridge Lighting was delayed but when it is ready to be lit - Larry Holmes will “flip the switch” to light the bridge.

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Mayor Panto gave a brief update on the cemetery on Nesquehoning Street. Mayor Panto stated that our radar shows a lesser amount of remains but will keep looking into this matter.

Dr. Ruggles stated that the City should look into the archives. His church did this and it provided a lot of information.

There was some discussion on this matter.

Mayor Panto stated that all of Council has received an invitation to the Police Officer of the Year award ceremony which will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Pomfret Club.

Mayor Panto stated that the Neighborhood Festival that was held this past weekend was very successful. He stated that there was good entertainment and good food.

Mayor Panto also stated that the MOOSE (Mayor's Officer of Special Events) does not use taxpayer's money for these events. Funds were raised for these events.

Mr. Campos, City Administrator, was not present at the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received by Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill No. 20 – An Ordinance amending Chapter 245 – Construction, of the Code of the City of Easton was introduced by Dr. Ruggles and ordered processed for adoption.

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving a Change Order to an Agreement with Gannett Fleming for work for the MS4 Program.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Edinger

63-2023

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Before the vote was taken, Dr. Ruggles asked Mr. Hopkins about the changes to the permitting process. Mr. Hopkins explained, in detail, what the changes were. He explained that they will need to rebuild the dam with concrete and pipes. They cannot use timbers for the dams.

Mr. Art Ravitz asked why they cannot use timbers for the locks. Mr. Hopkins stated that the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) considered timbers not to be dam materials.

Dr. Ruggles also addressed Mr. Ravitz's questions.

There was a brief discussion on this matter.

The above Resolution was then approved on motion of Mr. Edinger and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown, Edinger (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution approving the position of General Intern.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Melan

64-2023

Before the vote was taken, Dr. Ruggles asked why the Spring semester was not included in the Job Description. Dr. Ruggles stated that intern positions provide students with many opportunities and he believes that Spring semesters should be included.

There was also a discussion on the hours required for the students and the commitment of their time.

After this discussion, Dr. Ruggles made a motion seconded by Mr. O'Connell to amend the hour range from 25-35 to 15-35 and to also add the Spring semester to the Job Description.

The amendments to the Resolution were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: Melan, Edinger, Brown, Panto, Sultana, Ruggles, O'Connell (7)

Nays: None (0)

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The amended Resolution was then approved on motion of Mr. Melan and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yeas: O'Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan (7)

Nays: None (0)

The next item on the Agenda was a Resolution amending the 2023 Salary and Wages for the position of General Intern and increasing the salary for the Victims Advocate position.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Melan

65-2023

Before the vote was taken, Mrs. Sultana asked some questions about the salaries. There was a brief discussion on this matter.

The above Resolution was then approved on motion of Mr. Melan and Mr. O'Connell by the following vote:

Yeas: Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown, Edinger, Melan, O'Connell (7)

Nays: None (0)

PUBLIC COMMENT On any item)

Mr. Art Ravitz, 144 Church Street advised Mr. Brown that he should contact a representative of the NAACP to see if they would have any information on the Nesquehoning Street Cemetery. Mr. Brown stated that he already did this.

Ms. Louisa Durkin, 205 E. Paxinosa Avenue stated that the Environmental Advisory Committee wrote a letter to City Council, copy attached hereto, regarding the removal of at least fifty (50) trees on Lafayette Colleges property (the steep slope from N. 3rd Street up to Lafayette College Campus).

Mr. Hopkins stated that the City has spoken with representatives from Lafayette College several times and they will be replanting once construction is complete.

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Mr. Hopkins stated that during construction the contractor ran into tree roots, dead trees and trees that were being “choked” by vines and that Lafayette College will be creating a new landscape plan.

Ms. Durkin stated that while it is nice that trees will be replanted it is a shame that so many trees were removed in the first place and even with new trees there could/would cause a lot of erosion issues.

Mr. Clark stated that he has spoken with personnel from the Codes Office regarding this matter. It was stated that a “Stop Work” order could be issued, however, they want to keep the project moving so that it will allow time for replanting. It was noted that Lafayette College did not follow procedures.

There was some discussion on this matter.

Mr. Brown commended the Environmental Advisory Committee for “keeping an eye out” for these issues.

Ms. Cheryl Petillo, 3194 Moyer Rd., Hellertown, Pa. thanked Mrs. Sultana for introducing Bill No. 19, which prohibits the declawing of cats as well as addressing puppy mills. She also thanked everyone for their votes to pass this Ordinance. She stated that this sends a clear and powerful message regarding this matter.

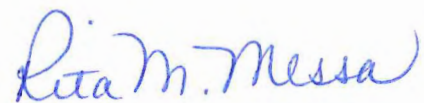
Ms. Stephanie Gallagher, 402 Newlins Rd., Easton, Pa., also thanked Council for passing this Ordinance. She stated that she will be addressing other municipalities as well with the hopes that they will also pass Ordinances prohibiting the declawing of cats.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m. on motion of Dr. Ruggles and Mr. O’Connell by the following vote:

Yeas: O’Connell, Ruggles, Sultana, Panto, Brown Edinger, Melan (7)

Nays: None (0)



Rita M. Messa
City Clerk



CITY OF EASTON

PENNSYLVANIA

City Clerk's Office

May 5, 2023

COUNCIL MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of City Council has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the transaction of Regular Business.

The meeting will be held at the College Hill Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall located at 501 Brodhead Street, Easton, Pa.

PLEASE ENTER THROUGH THE RED DOORS ON MONROE STREET SIDE

All meetings of City Council are open to the Public.

For Handicap Assistance please call 610-250-6611 prior to the meeting.

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL

Rita M. Messa
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA

Stated Session
Wednesday
May 10, 2023
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. ROLL CALL
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. ACTION ON MINUTES – Approving minutes of April 26, 2023 meeting
7. PUBLIC COMMENT – Agenda Items Only
8. CONSENT AGENDA
 - (a) Bill No. 19 – Creating a New Chapter 189 – Animals of the Code of the City of Easton
 - (b) Resolution approving the application for Health Walk Work Grant (\$35,000)
 - (c) Resolution approving an agreement with Men’s Senior Baseball League
 - (d) Resolution approving an agreement with the Easton Women’s Softball League
 - (e) Resolution approving an agreement with the Blue Eagle Swim Team
 - (f) Resolution approving an agreement with the Easton Aquatic Club
9. REPORTS RECEIVED BY COUNCIL
 - (a) Fire Department Report for April, 2023
10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - (a) Finance (Kenneth Brown)
 - (b) Economic Development (David O’Connell)
 - (c) Planning and Code (Taiba Sultana)
 - (d) Public Safety (Roger Ruggles)
 - (e) Public Works (James Edinger)
 - (f) Administration (Peter Melan)
 - (g) Report of City Solicitor (Attorney Joel Scheer)
 - (h) Report of Mayor (Salvatore J. Panto Jr.)
 - (I) Report of City Administrator (Luis Campos)
11. CORRESPONDENCE
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13. NEW BUSINESS
 - (a) Bill No. 20 – Amending Chapter 245 – Construction of the Code of the City of Easton
 - (b) Resolution approving a Change Order to Agreement with Gannett Fleming
 - (c) Resolution approving a Job Description for General Intern
 - (d) Resolution amending 2023 Salary/Wages
14. PUBLIC COMMENT – On Any Matter
15. ADJOURNMENT

Press Release - City of Easton, PA
Regarding 2021 Audit
May 2nd, 2023

The City of Easton's 2021 Audit is nearing completion with preliminary financial results currently available. These results serve as the basis for this update and are not anticipated to materially change with the completion of the Audit.

In the summer of 2022, the City was put in the unenviable position of having to bring on a new audit firm. The new firm, Barbacane Thornton (BTCPA), had existing client engagements already scheduled and were unable to begin the City audit until late last year.

To provide additional context for the results, it is important to note that, at the recommendation of the Administration, City Council decisively acted in 2020 to restructure the City's debt and - according to Standard & Poor's 2023 credit report - the Administration's "prudent fiscal oversight" combined with "enhanced... financial statement transparency", positioned the City well for 2021 and the coming years. Key indicators from the City's General (Operating) Fund results include:

- Revenues exceeding expenses, creating a surplus of \$179K and growing the Fund Balance to \$6M, or a 3% increase from 2020 . This was driven, in large part, by increases in Earned Income Tax revenues of 12%
- The \$533K 'assigned' for General Fund operations in 2021 was not spent, keeping the Fund Balance at higher levels than originally anticipated

Once finalized, the 2021 audit will be shared with City Council and posted to the City's website. The City and BTCPA have already confirmed the start of the 2022 audit engagement shortly after the completion of this audit, with an anticipated completion date of early fall 2023.

City of Easton Financial Update 5/2/23



2021 Audit Background

- Easton was put in the difficult situation of having to bring on a new audit firm in the summer of 2022
- The new firm, Barbacane Thornton (BTCPA), had existing client engagements already scheduled and couldn't begin the City audit until Q4 2022
- BTCPA provided us with preliminary figures recently, which serve as the basis for this presentation
- The final audit should be completed & made available on the City's website in the next 1.5 weeks

Framework for 2021

- As a refresher, the City responded to the 2020 pandemic and the significant anticipated revenue losses by:
 - Immediately **reducing all discretionary expenditures**, including suspending capital projects, purchasing new equipment, etc
 - Working closely with AFSCME leadership prior to rolling out a short-term furlough, impacting 81 employees whose **healthcare benefits were maintained** and who also, in most (if not all) circumstances, **earned the same or more** while being at home

Framework, Pt II

- City responses to COVID-related revenue losses, cont:
 - Taking advantage of historically low interest rates (combined rate of **3%**) to **restructure its existing debt** while also funding a **new parking structure**
 - Prior to the restructuring and with declining revenue, the City faced a **\$2.8M debt payment** that would have depleted reserves
 - The restructuring resulted in **cashflow savings of \$10.4M** in first 11 yrs, allowing for much-needed relief amid the uncertainties of COVID

Impacts of Debt Restructuring

Year	Current DS	Refunded DS @ 2.75%	Cash Flow (Savings)/Costs Of Refunding From Current DS	2020 Parking Bonds @ 3.4%	Total Refunded And Parking DS	Total Cash Flow (Savings)/Costs From Current DS @ 3.0% total
2020	\$ 2,838,313	\$ 242,264	\$ (2,596,049)			\$ (2,596,049)
2021	\$ 5,257,091	\$ 4,043,005	\$ (1,214,006)	\$ -	\$ 4,043,005	\$ (1,214,006)
2022	\$ 5,181,182	\$ 4,041,642	\$ (1,139,540)	\$ -	\$ 4,041,642	\$ (1,139,540)
2023	\$ 5,141,337	\$ 4,040,194	\$ (1,101,143)	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,470,327	\$ (671,010)
2024	\$ 5,141,717	\$ 4,035,229	\$ (1,106,488)	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,465,363	\$ (676,354)
2025	\$ 5,142,499	\$ 4,037,423	\$ (1,105,075)	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,467,557	\$ (674,942)
2026	\$ 5,143,366	\$ 4,037,697	\$ (1,105,659)	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,467,831	\$ (675,525)
2027	\$ 5,144,160	\$ 4,035,420	\$ (1,108,740)	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,465,562	\$ (670,605)
2028	\$ 5,143,928	\$ 4,035,399	\$ (1,108,529)	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,465,533	\$ (678,395)
2029	\$ 5,144,176	\$ 4,036,607	\$ (1,107,574)	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,468,736	\$ (677,441)
2030	\$ 5,144,263	\$ 4,039,410	\$ (1,104,853)	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,469,544	\$ (674,719)
2031	\$ 3,692,454	\$ 4,048,250	\$ 355,796	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,478,384	\$ 785,930
2032	\$ 116,261	\$ 4,032,045	\$ 3,915,785	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,462,179	\$ 4,346,918
2033	\$ 112,426	\$ 4,037,190	\$ 3,924,765	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,467,314	\$ 4,354,889
2034	\$ 113,389	\$ 4,036,217	\$ 3,922,829	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,466,351	\$ 4,352,962
2035	\$ 114,128	\$ 4,039,079	\$ 3,924,952	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,469,213	\$ 4,356,085
2036	\$ 114,643	\$ 4,037,143	\$ 3,922,500	\$ 430,134	\$ 4,467,277	\$ 4,352,634
2037	\$ 114,934	\$ 683,034	\$ 568,101	\$ 3,040,134	\$ 3,723,168	\$ 3,608,234
2038			\$ -	\$ 3,719,239	\$ 3,719,239	\$ 3,719,239
2039			\$ -	\$ 3,718,167	\$ 3,718,167	\$ 3,718,167
2040			\$ -	\$ 3,718,476	\$ 3,718,476	\$ 3,718,476
\$	58,800,261	\$ 65,537,323	\$ 6,737,062	\$ 20,217,887	\$ 85,512,945	\$ 26,954,949

Cash Flow Savings
(\$10,356,686)

Additional Background

- As the City prepared for the 2021 budget, the Administration recommended budgeting **\$533K** of the Fund-Balance in the General Fund (GF) for day-to-day operations
- This 'assignment' allowed for a balanced budget and maintained the City's Fund Balance **target of 10%** for the GF
- An **additional \$2.2M was assigned** for employee healthcare costs and capital needs

2021 Audit Highlights

- Overall, the City's Governmental and Business Type activities - including Enterprise, Internal Service, Fiduciary and Non-Major Funds - **finished in strong positions**
- Items of note in the GF (Operating) include:
 - From an Operating perspective, the City finished the year with a **surplus of \$179K**, growing the Fund Balance to \$6M
 - From a Budgeting perspective, the **\$533K** that had been 'assigned' for 2021 **was not needed**
 - The **combined impact** of the surplus and 'unspent' monies was **\$712K**

2022 Audit

- As the 2021 Audit is finalized, the Administration will shift gears to focus on finalizing the 2022 Audit for early fall
- At this time, there are no anticipated concerns with last year's results. Preliminarily, Earned Income Tax revenues suggest strong growth over 2021



environmental advisory council

May 8, 2023

Easton City Council
123 S. Third Street
Easton, PA 18042

CC: Lafayette College, Northampton County Conservation District, Easton Planning Commission, Easton Department of Public Works, Pennoni Associates

Dear Mayor Panto and City Council Members:

On behalf of the City of Easton Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), I write to inform you of our concern about the recent clearing of steep slopes along Bushkill Drive and at the intersection of N 3rd St. and College Ave. in conjunction with the development of the recreational trail connecting downtown, College Hill, and the Karl Stirner Arts Trail. While in general the EAC welcomes trail development that improves walk and bike access for the Easton community, it does not appear that adequate planning for steep slope protections are ongoing in this area. The EAC is concerned that this project as currently managed may result in significant erosion and safety hazards.

In the largest area of disturbance, which faces the N. Third St corridor and leads to the monument between Ruef and Keefe Halls on Lafayette campus, initial photographic analysis (Attachment A) shows the removal of at least 28 small to medium sized trees and at least 14 larger sized mature trees in addition to considerable understory species and other vegetation that stabilizes the thin soils and rock substrate of the hillside. Additional medium and large trees have been removed to the west of the large clearcut area, along the Karl Stirner Trail/Bushkill Drive corridor behind Don Juan Mex Grill restaurant. The total number of trees removed in these steep slope and environmentally sensitive areas is at least 50.

Rob Christopher, Conservation Manager for the City of Easton, was not consulted on the disturbance planned in conjunction with this project and was not asked to assist in assessing tree health or best practices for retaining this large area of steep slope mature canopy. We have been unable to determine if there was any planning for conservation of the steep slope terrain, soil retention, and safety and security of current trail users at the base of the slope while the construction is underway. Lafayette spokesperson Brian Hay is quoted in a recent article on LehighValleyNews.com as saying that "Most of these trees were removed because they were dead, dying, or created safety concerns," but to our knowledge no licensed arborist or tree professional was consulted in making these

determinations. If documentation exists on how these determinations were made, it should be provided to the city's Conservation Manager and EAC for review.

The Easton Zoning Code, § 595-30, deals with Steep slope conservation and specifies that no development should occur in severely steep areas (above 35% slope):

In areas where the natural slope is 35% or greater, no area shall be altered, regraded, cleared, built upon or otherwise altered. Exceptions include approved trail development or repair.

Based on USGS topo maps, the natural slope in this area appears to exceed 35%.

The Easton Zoning Code defines "development" broadly to include the following:

DEVELOPMENT

Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including, but not limited to, buildings or structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or timber harvesting operations. Land development, as defined within this section, shall be included in this definition.

While trail development is listed as a potential exception to the general prohibition of development on severely steep slopes, a number of requirements set forth in this section that should still be followed, such as detailed contour mapping, revegetation and stabilization plans, and erosion and sedimentation plans. For example:

(6) Removal of or disturbance to existing vegetation in steep slope areas shall be minimized. The proposed impacts on existing vegetation shall be evaluated in terms of the potentially detrimental effects on slope stability, conveyance and recharge of stormwater, aesthetic characteristics of the landscape and existing drainage patterns. Further, it shall be demonstrated that any and all reasonable mitigation techniques and procedures will be utilized or have been considered in the preparation of the plan, such as revegetation measures, control of soil erosion and sedimentation, stormwater management, and the like. For purposes of such demonstration, the City may request additional information, including, but not limited to, an erosion and sedimentation plan.

In addition, section 595-30(D(1)) of the Zoning Code provides that:

Before a permit is issued for any construction or land disturbance on land within or affecting steep and very steep slope areas, the following material shall be submitted for review by the City Engineer:

(a) Plans drawn to a scale of at least one-inch equals 50 feet, sealed by a registered professional engineer, depicting the following:

[1] The location, dimensions and elevation of the property.

[2] Existing and proposed uses and development.

[3] An earthmoving plan of the property which indicates existing and proposed grades with contour lines at two-foot intervals within the area of any proposed

activity, disturbance or construction. All areas of steep and very steep slope shall be graphically highlighted.

[4] A site plan indicating existing and proposed buildings, structures, other impervious surfaces, storm drainage facilities and retaining walls. The site plan shall also depict within areas of steep and very steep slopes existing vegetation, including woodlands, open areas and their ground cover type, as well as proposed landscaping material to be installed.

[5] Typical cross section and elevations of the property and proposed buildings and structures at intervals prescribed by the City Engineer, as well as architectural plans, building elevations, and site sections.

[6] Photographs showing existing uses, vegetation and topography within the steep and very steep slope areas.

[7] A statement signed and sealed by a registered architect or professional engineer explaining the building methods to be used in overcoming foundation and other structural problems created by slope alteration; the proposed techniques to preserve natural drainage and prevent soil erosion and sedimentation; and the methods proposed to avoid excessive surface water runoff to neighboring properties and/or streets.

The EAC requests that Easton City Council review any plans that were submitted to and approved by the City Engineer and Planning Commission prior to the approval of this project, and if any of the required site plans, applications for permits and approval, or other required documents were not properly submitted and approved, that further development and disturbance of these severely steep slope areas be halted until all required documents have been reviewed and approved.

In addition, the EAC would like to review and have the opportunity to comment on any existing or yet to be developed rehabilitation and revegetation plans, to ensure that best practices regarding species selection, planting establishment, invasive species mitigation, and follow up care and site maintenance will be adhered to by the contracting firm and Lafayette College staff. We are also concerned that issues regarding future runoff, erosion, and slope conservation may not have been adequately considered in the planning of this project, and would likewise appreciate the opportunity to comment on aspects of this project that may still be alterable prior to the project's completion, so that the project outcome will be a long term asset to the community, and not end up as a detriment to our landscape and environment.

Sincerely,



Ian Kindle, Chairperson
City of Easton Environmental Advisory Council

EAC/wp

Attachment A: Photographic Analysis
of Primary Clearcut Disturbance Area,
04/27/2023

