

Bethlehem Authority Police Report

NOV 2022

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1. I attended the Source Water Protection meeting. The meeting was very informative and went well. I found it surprising how many people actually read the monthly reports and pay attention to what is occurring in the watershed.
2. Executive director Repasch and myself toured the property with the Board this month. The fall colors were brilliant and everyone was able to see again just how wonderful the entire area is. A few members were able to experience just how the patrol vehicles need to be heavy duty in order to withstand patrolling this property.
3. The city had a photographer in the area to take video footage about the water system. The Photographer utilized a drone to take video and photo's of the reservoirs. It was later found the photographer had posted unauthorized images to a social media account. The City responded quickly to the issue and the images were removed. After being made aware of this issue I informed City personnel that the Authority has current reservoir photo's and video footage on file. There wasn't any need to use an outside source.
4. I had the annual Legal Monitoring Meeting with Pat McElhenny of The Nature Conservancy, Director of Stewardship. This meeting is required as part of our conservation easement with TNC. Pat regularly travels our properties and stated he can see that our efforts in controlling illegal activity in the watershed are making a difference. Pat also stated that having Law Enforcement in place provides a level of protection that most conservation easements can't provide.
5. So far this year archery hunter numbers are down. Normally early November is the prime time to be in the woods as the "Rut" (Deer mating season) is at its peak. The extremely warm temperatures we are having are the most likely reason for such low numbers.
6. A neighboring private community had contacted the Authority for assistance with fall leaf removal. Permission was requested to dump leaves in a shale pit that borders the community. The pit has a gate

that the authority can access from the community roadways. The gate does not grant access to any fire lanes or reservoirs. After a long discussion, and great hesitation, Director Repasch and I granted permission on a trial basis.

The rules without exception were as follows:

- Leaves only
- No branches, grass clippings, weeds or plants pulled from the yard, flower bed or pots
- No vehicles. Persons can back up to the gate, carry the leaves in bags, cans or tarps and dump in place. Taking the bag, can or tarp with them as they leave.
- Gate can be opened to allow for easier walking into the area, but vehicles can not enter.
- The area will be checked frequently for any items other than leaves. ANYTHING other than leaves will terminate the agreement.

I then met with the HOA President and Security person and placed a combination lock on the gate, which both were given the combination. Only the two of them are authorized to open the gate. All rules were agreed on.

A few days later I was informed that the HOA had a small front end loader inside the pit clearing a large area. Upon arrival a large tri-axle dump truck and skid steer loader were at the gate. The HOA president and security person were on scene and when asked why the area was being cleaned by a piece of equipment the president responded with "The cars need an area to get in and turn around". At that moment the lock was removed and the agreement ended. The security officer was on scene and stated to the president "I told you this wasn't allowed."

The community out reach had failed, but not by our doing. I have been checking the area and dumping has not occurred.