WEST NORRITON TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-693

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CREATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, PROVIDING OPERATING PROCEDURES AND STATING THE POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania deems it to be in the best interest and the general welfare of the citizens and residents of Township to be advised as to: environmental issues within the Township; the protection and preservation of natural resources within the Township; possible uses of open land in the Township; creating inventories of natural areas with unique feature within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the First-Class Township Code, Act of May 1, 1933, P.L. 103 No. 69, as amended by the Act of Nov. 9, 1995, P.L. 350, No. 60, found at 53 P.S. section 66506, entitled "General Powers", authorizes the Board of Commissioners to make and adopt ordinances necessary for the proper management, care and control of the township and the maintenance of peace, good government, health and welfare of the township; and

WHEREAS, Section 11501 of the Act of Dec. 21, 1973, P.L. 425, No. 148, Chapter 30C - Environmental Advisory Councils - authorizes the governing body of any township to establish, by ordinance, an Environmental Advisory Council to advise other local government agencies, including, but not limited to, the planning commission, park and recreation boards and elected officials, on matters dealing with protection, conservation, management, promotion and use of natural resources including air, land and water resources, located within its territorial limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of same as follows:

I. **AMENDMENT**. Chapter 1, Part 2: "Boards and Commissions" is hereby amended to create a new subchapter as follows:

"C. Environmental Advisory Council" and the following subparts:

Section 213. Creation of the Environment Advisory Council.

An advisory council to be known as the West Norriton Township Environmental Advisory Council, is hereby created and shall continue to function until this ordinance is revoked.

Section 214. Membership and Terms.

The Environmental Advisory Council shall be composed of five residents of this municipality. Council members shall be appointed in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) All council members shall be appointed by the Governing Body of the political subdivision.

(2) Council members' terms of office shall expire on the first Monday in January following the last year of their term of office.

(3) Duly appointed council members shall serve a term of three years, except that initial appointments shall be so staggered that the terms of approximately one-third of the membership shall expire each year.

(4) Whenever possible, one member shall also be a member of the local planning commission.

Section 215. Expenses.

Council members shall receive no compensation for their services, but may be reimbursed for the expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

Section 216. Duties.

The Environmental Advisory Council is to be advisory to and shall coordinate its activities with the elected officials, planning commission and other such local governmental agencies.

Section 217. Chairperson.

The governing body shall designate the chairman of the council.

Section 218. Powers.

The Environmental Advisory Council shall have the following powers:

(1) Identify environmental problems.

(2) Recommend plans and programs to the appropriate agencies for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within the area of this municipality.

(3) Make recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of this municipality.

(4) Promote a community environmental program.

(5) Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including, but not limited to, flood prone areas, swamps, and other unique natural areas.

(6) Advise the appropriate local governmental agencies in the acquisition of property, both real and personal.

(7) To undertake such environmental tasks as requested by the governing body of this municipality.

Section 219. Records.

The Environmental Advisory Council shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual and report which shall be printed in the annual municipal report (if applicable) or otherwise made known available. Minutes of each meeting shall be forwarded to the governing body.

Section 220. Appropriation of Funds.

The governing body of this municipality may, from time to time, appropriate funds for the expenses incurred by the Council.

II. REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances that are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed, it being understood and intended that all ordinances and the First Class Township Code, such as are not otherwise specifically in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance, shall remain in full force and effect, the same being reaffirmed hereby.

III. REVISIONS

The Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township does hereby reserve the right, from time to time, to adopt modifications of, supplements to, or amendments of this Ordinance, including this provision.

IV. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional, by any court of competent jurisdiction, such provisions shall be separate, distinct and independent, and such holding shall not effect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately.

Approved by the Board of Commissioners of West Norriton Township, this 14th day of July, 2015.

Attest:

JASON BOBST, Secretary

WEST NORRITON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RALPH PANZULLO, President

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