

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, July 18, 2017
6:45 P.M.

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting July 18, 2017 in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE:

John Weilnau, Vice-Chair
Stacey Henderson
Katherine Vaccaro, Chair
Christopher Kaasmann
Greg Waks, Board Liaison
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison
Sal Sonsino
Zachary Davis

ABSENT:

Brittany Grala, Secretary

- Approve minutes from June 20, 2017 meeting – approved by John Weilnau and Seconded by Sal Sonsino.

OLD BUSINESS:

Framer Market/Rain Barrels

Chris and I both went and split our slots on July 8th a lot of people were interested in the rain barrels and ask many questions such as how many are giving away? When will the winners be announced? When will we be doing this again? People were advised that the drawing for the rain barrels would be conducted within the next two weeks. The EAC Members decided to pick rain barrel winners at this meeting. Janet will contact all of the winners. All winners need to pick up their rain barrels by August 12th or the rain barrels will be forfeited. The forfeited rain barrels will be put back into the pool to be raffled off the fourth and final raffle on October 7th.

Vendors should not give out plastic grocery bags to customers. Reach out to Lydia DanSardinas and Tina for resolution if not this year next year.

Shade Tree Commission:

Chaired by Barley Vancleif concerning the Emerald Ash Tree Issues the EAC is standing at the ready to assist you and your group sees what fits we do not want to duplicate efforts. Barley was very respectful to that suggestion. Barley wanted us to attend last week meeting where Barley thought that a vote would be held on this issue, but the meeting was just a workshop meeting and no vote was taken. The BOS will be voting on Thursday and the issue will pass. Barley sent an email to confirm all information. Barley advised me that a small Task Force has

been formed between the STC and Parks & Rec. Barley wants to know if one or two members of EAC would participate on the task force. If interested please let me know, Barley will keep me up to date on the Task Force Meeting going forward.

Two Options:

1. Cut down all of the Ash Trees and harvest the wood.
2. Inject the Ash Trees with treatment, not guaranteed to be successful.

No Ash Tree can fall along the trails this might cause injury to people using the trails and that would bring legal ramifications. There will be tree removal work done on the trails in two phases later on this summer and the second phase in the winter. The phases will only include Ash Trees no other tree species will be harmed or removed.

The Education of Residents Concerning Ash Trees - several residents have Ash Trees on their properties.

1. Advise residents of their options to either remove the Ash Trees or have the Ash Trees treated.

D.C.N.R. made a presentation at the Board of Supervisors Business Meeting which was televised. Don Herbert runs that segment of work for Westley Township, the P.I.O. office will be putting somethings out concerning Ash Trees so residents know that they may have this problem tree that could fall or die. This would bring potential damage to their homes and potential legal liability. (What is the most effective way to notify residents?)

- Janet will get in touch with Alison to see what she will be putting out.
- eNews Letter is a huge way of getting information out to the residents.
- Hard Copy Publication is the best way to get the Ash Tree Information out to the residents

Concerns:

- Residents will remove more than Ash Trees from their properties, information needs to be distribute to advise resident to only remove Ash Tree from their properties.
- Do we still sell trees? Janet will ask Bill Schutter or Barley to set up some kind of tree replacement.
- The EAC should look into the tree replacement program (Take down a tree and get a tree) follow up with Barley; Tree Replacement is in the spring.

Bus Stop Recycling Drive: No Updates for this month

Trash Hauling and Commercial Recycling

Seeking Amendment of Ordinance for less frequent Trash and Recycling Hauling

There is an uncertainty as to what the benefits would be with less frequent trash pick-up but we still should try to offer this option to all residents. (Chris is still looking into this

and will follow up at next meeting.) Trash pick-up is currently required on a once a week basis.

Yard Waste:

Township residents need to be educated as to what yard waste is and what not is not yard waste. EAC will put together a one page sheet with instructions to be distributed to all residences. John has pictures of yard waste violators and will send an email including picture to all EAC members.

Meadows Installation:

Discussed with Tina, Krista offered to partner with us to do an educational demonstration. John would like to incorporate the Meadows as a Restoration Project/ Phase:

- Primary Objectives:
- Demonstration with Krista we will need to locate an area for the demonstration. Janet will show Krista around different available township properties/locations.
- High Traffic Areas in Heuser Park and the Mullen Track House on Allendale Road.

Township Community Fair:

(Will EAC Members Attend?) There will be a beer tent this will be a great gathering area for people. EAC members should talk to Dan Russell concerning acquiring a tent for the fair.

- Have a plan be prepared when people come to the tent and tables.
- This will be Tabled for now will revisit in the future.

New Business:

Green Procurement Policy – (Does the township have a policy?) The township does not have a policy on Green Procurement. The township is cost effective Green Procurement is very expensive. The township goes for the lowest price due to tax dollars. The township has been trying to look into energy efficient solutions. The township building is looking into going completely green. We need to do projects and apply for grant money also. Send LEAD Certified link to all EAC members including Janet. This will be reviewed and discussed later.

Green House Gas Emission Inventory – Reach out to the BOS to see if that is something that they would like the EAC to review.

- Admitting CO² Measurements – Coming up with a plan to mitigate and dollars that are associated with those measurements.
- Present all solutions to the BOS, but the inventory is limited. The township generates all operations.
- This will be reviewed in the near future

BOS Liaison comments: Chair Meeting: - Early Discussions:

Changing the ordinance of the Littering Fine – The fine is now \$300.00. We would like to propose that the fine be increased to \$1000.00 and placing more signs to advise the public. Signs to be placed on Township property only. Members of the EAC need to attend a workshop meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

In response to Kate's inquiry, Sal motioned to adjourn. Chris seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Katherine Vaccaro, Chairperson

Minutes Approved: _____

Minutes Entered: _____