

**Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for August 20th, 2019**

The Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on August 20th, 2019 in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE:

Zach Davis, Chair
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison
Brittany Gralla
Alexandra Moulton
Pepper Francis
David Newman
Carol Ryan
Carole Kenney, Supervisor

ABSENT:

Courtney Smith, Secretary

Kabindra Shakya

MEETING MINUTES:

Ms. Moulton made a motion to approve the July 2019 meeting minutes with Ms. Ryan seconding and all in favor.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION:

The Environmental Advisory Council welcomed Pepper Francis, 7th grade, as the newest member of the council.

ONGOING ITEMS:

Ready For 100 – Next Steps

As the resolution passed 5-0, the council discussed what actions should be taken moving forward. Ultimately, funding must be secured to contribute to an energy planner being hired throughout Montgomery County (per the stipulations of the resolution) which would possibly go through Public Works, or may be secured through a BCA Grant. In addition to funding, public education in regard to how clean energy works and what options are available is necessary in order to gain traction with residents. The target date to launch educational initiatives in this respect would be Earth Day 2020.

Single-Use Plastics

It was agreed that the best course of action, before any ordinances would be passed, would be to start an awards-based system with local businesses to encourage green practices, like no longer offering plastic bags or straws, and advertising them in the local paper specifically for switching to green practices. The council will work to create a ranking or point system in support of the initiative.

Styrofoam Use in Upper Merion Area School District

As there is already a student liaison, she will reach out to a teacher or staff member to discuss the possibility of starting a petition to remove Styrofoam lunch trays from the cafeteria, which will hopefully carry over to the high school.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Farmer's Market Dates

On August 24 Zach will work 9 AM until 11 AM.

New Ideas for EAC Involvement

It was suggested that there will be a working session to make a plan of action for all of the projects and timeline goals, and from there start working to create sub-committees and student groups which would work on specific projects.

Mulch Pile

Concerns have been raised by citizens, members of the EAC, and Daylin Leach's office regarding the proximity and operations of the mulch processing facility to Gulph Elementary School. While the zoning of the location allows for the type of work to be done, there is reason to believe that they are not limiting their activities to the development of mulch and may be using prohibited materials. An independent air study was conducted by the high school last year but environmental factors led to a follow-up study which will be conducted in better conditions to produce more conclusive results. The high school has withheld the results of the initial test in anticipation of a possible lawsuit.

State-Wide EAC Network

Upper Merion Township has been chosen to host the state-wide EAC Network in May of 2020.

EAC Networking Event

In September at Fairmount Park in Philadelphia, there is a workshop dedicated to different EAC's throughout the area where attendees are eligible to win miniature grants through raffles, as well as share ideas and discuss mutual goals.

Staff Liaison Comments

Ms. Serfass will not be present for the next meeting. Additionally, the rain barrels have been lost in delivery twice at this point. A third shipment is expected.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Ryan moved to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Newman with all in favor.

Zach Davis, Chair

Minutes Approved: _____

Minutes Entered: _____