

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
February 11, 2015

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on February 11, 2015 in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

The following members of the EAC were present: Chris Kaasmann, Sal Sonsino, Sandy Moskowitz, Vivian Peikin, Staff Liaison Janet Serfass, and Board of Supervisors Liaison Greg Waks. Also in attendance was Krista from the Montgomery County Conservation District.

The following members of the EAC were absent: Steven Burda, and Ed Campbell.

COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

Chairperson – A motion was made to nominate Chris Kaasmann as Chairperson. Mr. Kaasmann accepted the nomination and it was passed unanimously.

Vice Chairperson – A motion was made to nominate Steven Burda as Vice Chairperson. The motion was passed unanimously.

Secretary – A motion was made to nominate Sandy Moskowitz as Secretary. Ms. Moskowitz accepted the nomination and it was passed unanimously.

The EAC members voted to hold all meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm pending room availability.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 12/10/14 by Sandy Moskowitz, and seconded by Vivian Peikin. The motion passed unanimously.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DISCUSSION:

Ms. Serfass introduced Krista who has reached out to the Township through the Schuylkill Action Network to see if there is interest in participating in stormwater education and outreach, specifically eliminating illicit discharge from commercial properties. A DEP grant was applied for in order to help pay for signage and storm drain marking on private commercial properties, cleanups at the headwaters of streams such as the ones underneath the mall will be held. The Schuylkill Action Network is asking for the support of the EAC by means of recruiting volunteers from the community to help with stream cleanups as well as to install storm drain markings. Krista also mentioned that she can help the Township with its MS4 program by offering them several outreach materials. The EAC members discussed efforts to educate the business community as well as the residents in Upper Merion Township, and intend to discuss a potential waste and recycling ordinance as well as an education workshop program regarding illicit discharges into the stormwater system at a workshop meeting. The EAC will advertise and create sign-up sheets for volunteers for the steam clean up at their Earth Day table.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Kaasmann informed the EAC that the most recently beautified 12,000 square foot concrete median at 202 and Long Road cost the Business Improvement District \$60,000 which included removing eight inches of concrete, six inches of asphalt, and all new soil and plantings. The annual budget for the maintenance of these medians is \$50,000 which includes \$12,000 for new plants in all medians. The permit to do this work was obtained through the Highway Beautification Program.

Mr. Kaasmann will contact Township Manager Dave Kraynik to receive direction in participating in the Sustainable Pennsylvania Program.

Mr. Kaasmann informed the EAC that Household Hazardous Waste events will not be held in Upper Merion Township in 2015, and that there will be no electronics recycling through Montgomery County. Paper shredding and tire collection events will be held in addition to the Household Hazardous Waste program.

The EAC discussed the status of electing a new student liaison to the council, as well as the status of sending educational materials through the school district. They also discussed the Board of Community Assistance Grant; the council would like to apply for mile markers for the Schuylkill River West Trail, as well as to host rain barrel education workshops with the Montgomery County Conservation District.

LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Serfass reminded the EAC that a definite yes or no is needed regarding attendance to the EAC meeting and that the meeting will be called the day before at 3pm if quorum is not reached.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Waks asked the members of the EAC to commit to attending as many meetings as possible, and mentioned that the Board of Supervisors are looking at the attendance and not reappointing citizen board members who are in significant nonattendance.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Chris Kaasmann, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 3/17/2015

Minutes Entered: 3/18/2015