

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
March 17, 2015

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on March 17, 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, Steven Burda, Sal Sonsino, Sandy Moskowitz, Vivian Peikin, and Staff Liaison Janet Serfass. Also in attendance were; Krista Scheirer from the Montgomery County Conservation District, Resident Bob Caley, High School Student Anna Derby, and George Serofass.

The following members of the EAC were absent: Ed Campbell, and Board of Supervisors Liaison Greg Waks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of 2/11/15 by Vivian Peikin, and seconded by Steven Burda. The motion passed unanimously.

DRINKING WATER PROJECT PRESENTATION:

Anna Derby and George Serofass gave a presentation referencing the availability of natural spring drinking water in Upper Merion Township. As part of the presentation Ms. Derby asked to promote the use of natural spring water and donate a portion of additional funds made from spring water at Nor-view Farm to be donated towards building wells in areas of the world without access to clean drinking water. Ms. Serfass explained that the township spring at Nor-View Farm has been deemed contaminated by surface influences and the current product being sold is a separate water source and is well water.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT DISCUSSION:

Ms. Scheirer explained that the Schuylkill Action Network partners have been working on different angles of reducing pollution. A formal request was submitted to PennDOT to place stream identification signs at road crossings, and only four of the roads that were requested are maintained by the state. Ms. Scheirer will forward the list of the other five sites to the EAC with the pricing for the PennDOT approved specification for the necessary hardware. A formal request was also made with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to request that inspectors check that sewage and wastewater as well as garbage and refuse are disposed of properly during the inspections of restaurants.

The stream cleanup will be held on May 2nd between 10am-12pm. Volunteers may park on the side of Toys R Us, and must sign in by 9:30am. A pizza lunch will be provided for the volunteers after the cleanup is complete. The EAC will contact trash haulers in or adjacent to Upper Merion Township to ask for donations of a dumpster or funding for the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Kaasmann informed the EAC that the trail marker grant application has been submitted to the Board of Community Assistance. The EAC also further discussed the potential of creating an ordinance to post inside businesses explaining to employees how to properly dispose of waste, grease, etc. The EAC members will look to see how this ordinance will compare to the Township's current sewer use ordinance, as well as looking into finding model ordinances from other municipalities. Ms. Moskowitz advised that the greenhouse at Nor-View Farm has just re-opened for the season, and that she will contact them in regards to a plant sale.

NEW BUSINESS:

The EAC members discussed their availability for the Earth Day Celebration and the Stream Cleanup, as well as their promotion of both of the events.

LIAISON'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Serfass reminded the EAC that the Earth Day celebration will be held on April 25th, and that the group would need to decide before then if they will host an EAC table this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm.

Chris Kaasmann, Chairman

Minutes Approved: June 16, 2015

Minutes Entered: June 17, 2015