

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 17, 2016**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on May 17, 2016 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.

ATTENDANCE:

John Weilnau, Chairman
Christopher Kaasmann, Vice-Chair
Kathryn Vaccaro, Secretary
Brittany Grala
Sal Sonsino
Greg Waks, Board Liaison
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison

ABSENT:

Sandra Moskowitz
James Laughlin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

John Weilnau asked if there was a motion to approve the April 19, 2016 meeting minutes. Chris Kaasmann motioned for their approval. Brittany Grala seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board of Community Assistance (BCA) Grant Extension for the rain barrels.

Greg Waks informed members of the BCA's meeting with the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, May 19, 2016, and of the BCA's upcoming award ceremony on June 23.

Bottle Filling Station:

James Laughlin will report on operation and maintenance costs at a later date. John met Alan Richardson, who is involved in several initiatives to build water kiosks with re-filling stations near the Schuylkill River; and who may be able to provide us with additional insight on funding, and operation and maintenance costs.

Earth Day:

Unfortunately, a bad weather forecast caused the cancellation of Earth Day.

Weed/Meadows:

Greg Waks described Scott Sibley's interest in exploring the idea of designating a portion of the new trail – that which borders the sewer treatment plant -- as a meadow.

Krista Scheier informed John that Chester County successfully installed a meadow using a Best Management Practice. John will contact Krista regarding the EAC's interest in creating a designated meadow area intended to benefit storm-water management.

Schuylkill Park Clean-Up Event:

Though no one got poison ivy, etc. members recommended holding this well-attended (46 people) event earlier in the season, possibly on the Saturday following Earth Day, with a rain date of Sunday. Photos will be forwarded to Janet.

John thanked everyone for their participation on the Schuylkill Park's Clean-Up Day.

Trash Study:

John thanked everyone for their participation. He noted that a sampling (4 out of 25 trash bags) identified that a lot of the trash was old. It consisted of wrappers, glass and plastic bottles, paper cups, and metal cans. John will provide Janet with a numeric count.

Janet recommended looking into the source(s) of the containers and contacting them to request imprinting the container with a message to dispose of the trash.

Objectives and Goals:

In response to the group's discussion on amending the EAC's mission objectives and goals, Janet suggested putting something together for submission to our solicitor.

NEW BUSINESS:

John will meet with Don Herbert to discuss guidelines for the Township's Facebook Page. Brittany Grala will serve as the Council's Administrator.

Superfund sites:

Chris Kaasmann requested information about what's going on with the superfund sites, just in case people ask us. Janet replied that the two remaining sites are in a "monitor-only" phase. She offered to provide members with a list and current status report.

Water Conservation:

Chris asked what things the EAC should do, if anything, about residential water conservation. Group discussion identified places where "gray"/waste water is purified for irrigation or drinking use. Janet identified west coast areas where droughts could fuel a need for water conservation.

To conserve energy and treatment costs, Janet recommended that people with sump pumps disconnect from the sanitary sewer; and that recharging ground water is a huge water-conservation effort.

Solar panels: John informed members of Supervisor Carole Kenney's interest in revisiting the feasibility of installing solar panels on Township buildings. Janet recommended contacting Ed O'Brien for general specs; updating the costs; investigating the availability of grants; and presenting its findings to the Board of Supervisors.

Liaison's Comments:

Janet met with the Schuylkill Action Network and referred to the Joint Grant for MS4 education providing labelling signs and medallions for Crow Creek; magnets for some of our township trucks; and door hangers with information on how to conserve water.

Part of that grant may involve mounting the contest winner's entry at the Community Center and announcing it on the day of the Community Center's Grand Opening.

ADJOURNMENT:

John asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Chris motioned to adjourn. Sal seconded. None opposed. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

John Weilnau, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 07/19/16

Minutes Entered: 07/26/16