

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2016**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting on October 18, 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
Katherine Vaccaro, Secretary
Christopher Kaasmann
Sandra Moskowitz
Brittany Grala
Linda Castro
Greg Waks, Board Liaison
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison

ABSENT:

Sal Sonsino

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

In response to John Weilnau's request, Sandy Moskowitz motioned to approve the September 20, 2016 meeting minutes. Christopher Kaasman seconded. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

BCA Grant Extension:

John is awaiting a response from the BCA regarding the EAC's use of last year's grant balance for the purchase of several rain barrels.

The Weed Ordinance / Meadow updates:

Chris Kaasmann suggested doing something pro-active to encourage use of Best Management Practices for meadows. In response to his comment, the group addressed the locations of grassy areas, such as the Schuylkill West Trail, where Best Management Practices could branch out to. John recommended establishing a meadow by the Trout Run Treatment Plant.

Using BMP, Janet recommended encouraging the township to establish a meadow on township property and along new paths, trails and connectors instead of planting grass that requires mowing. Group discussion addressed what is prohibited by the Code, how much it costs, and who would maintain it. Since the area in question is maintained by

the Treatment Plant, John will contact the Upper Merion Stormwater and Sanitary Sewer Authority via Ed O'Brien.

Items to be added to Parks & Rec Master Plan:

Bottle refill kiosks (updates):

John will work with Parks and Recreation to obtain information he'll need for next year's American Water Grant's continuance.

Township Solar Panel Feasibility:

Sally Slook, Assistant Township Manager, applied for the Solsmart Community-designation program. She has not yet heard anything back.

Updating EAC "Goals" – now updated on township website:

John thanked Kate for her great work on updating the township's website.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Event:

Chris has not received a response from Lockheed and will ask Dave Kraynik for help. Group discussion addressed the need for a site with one entrance and one exit.

Trash cans at bus stops – no recycling:

Group discussion addressed the lack of trash containers for recycling purposes at SEPTA's commercial bus stop shelters, which are maintained by Clear Channel. Chris noted that the Code and State law require commercial facilities to recycle. Janet recommended that Chris e-mail Bob Rudzinski and John Waters to obtain the proper contact person. Chris offered to answer questions related to code- and state-related language on the letter crafted by John.

Steering Committee

Chris indicated his interest in volunteering on the Comprehensive Plan's Steering Committee. John asked for a motion to appoint Chris as the EAC's representative. Sandy motioned. Kate seconded. All voted in favor. Janet will inform Rob Loeper.

In response to Chris' inquiry about feedback on the Schuylkill Action Network's grant, Janet commented that pictures of the stormwater drain's decal at Norview Farm have been posted. Janet is awaiting word on the status of the stream signs and medallions. A member commented on the public's approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

In conjunction with the bus stop recycling issue, Chris commented that food waste, glass bottles and biodegradable bowls are going into the same trash receptacle at the Naf Naf Grill. Group discussion addressed this occurring at another restaurant and will discuss the matter with Bob Rudzinski.

LIAISONS COMMENTS:

Janet reminded members of the upcoming Citizens Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for November 6 from noon to 2:00 p.m. Janet will contact Angela Caramenico as to who can and cannot attend.

Electronic Recycling and Paper Shredding Event:

Janet informed members of the Electronic Recycling and Paper Shredding Event at Heuser Park on November 12. Chris will contact Bob Rudzinski.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Greg commented that the Upper Merion Township Foundation is beginning to look into trash hauling as a possibility. It would be optional; involves a competitive RFP process; has benefits -- possibly a reduced price, and fewer trucks on the road, and less pollution from trash trucks.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

John Weilnau, Chairman

Minutes Approved: 11/15/2016

Minutes Entered: 11/16/2016