

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017
6:45 P.M.**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting March 21, 2017 in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE:

Katherine Vaccaro, Chairman
John Weilnau, Vice-Chair
Brittany Grala, Secretary
Sal Sonsino
Zachary Davis
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison
Krista Scheirer, Montgomery County Conservation District

ABSENT:

Christopher Kaasmann
Stacey Henderson
Greg Waks, Board Liaison

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

In response to Kate's request, John motioned to approve the January 17, 2017 meeting minutes. Brittany seconded. All voted in favor.

DISCUSSION WITH KRISTA SCHEIRER, SCHUYLKILL ACTION NETWORK:

Krista is a watershed specialist for the Montgomery County Conservation District. She discussed stormwater outreach in Upper Merion Township including; the education of residents and businesses about the pollution of stormwater drains and what effect the pollution has on waterways. A three thousand dollar grant was received to place stream signs at five locations along Crow Creek as well as Trout Creek. There was also artwork installed around a stormwater drain at Nor-view Farm, which needs to be repaired as it did not stick to the asphalt correctly. Krista also informed the group that medallion kits will be installed at School District buildings and that the Schuylkill Action Network will be working with businesses in Upper Merion to have them installed in heavier trafficked parking lots. The Township has already installed medallions on many Township maintained roads and properties. A decal for car windows and storefronts is also in the design process pertaining to protecting clean water in King of Prussia. Krista will be at events such as Earth Day and the Farmers Market to hand out materials and educate attendees.

OLD BUSINESS:

PA American Water Environmental Grant:

The EAC members discussed the PA American Water Environmental Grant and decided to table it until 2018 as the project applied for has to be within PA American's service area. Only a small portion of Upper Merion Township is serviced by PA American Water.

BCA Grant:

The unused balance from the BCA grant is \$1420.00. The EAC will use the remainder of the funds to purchase additional rain barrels and will hold a giveaway at Earth Day, Farmers Markets, and Community Day in the fall, alongside stormwater information and tips. The EAC would like to explore the usage of vouchers so that residents can pick up the rain barrels directly from the vendor to avoid issues with storage.

Meadow Installation:

Krista announced that the Montgomery County Conservation District will be receiving equipment to install meadows and that they would like to partner with municipalities to create demonstration meadowlands. The cost to install a meadow by the Conservation District would be minimal. The EAC will discuss the possibility further with the Board of Supervisors.

Better Communicate "Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse" policies:

Bob Rudzinski, the Township's recycling coordinator will be attending April's EAC meeting to discuss the efforts being made at commercial facilities regarding recycling.

Green Power Communities:

Upon further investigation the EAC found that the Green Power Community designation would not be feasible for Upper Merion Township as the Township would have to generate or purchase 100% renewable energy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring Cleanup:

The EAC members will find a date and site for a spring cleanup event to be held in the township.

Trout Creek:

Janet reported that the water table is low and that water is not flowing into the stream at Trout Creek due to a drought. Snow, rain, and water conservation are the three main factors that can help increase water flow. Krista announced that the PA Horticultural Society and the Upper Merion Township Shade Tree Commission are looking to start a reforestation project along Trout Creek as they expect many trees to die as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer, and would like to partner with the EAC.

UMASD Aquaponics Project:

Kate reported that the middle school is doing a year-long aquaponics project to grow basil. The EAC will contact the school district to see if other schools would be willing to do the same.

STAFF LIAISON'S REPORT:

Janet welcomed Zach and Stacey to the EAC and reminded members to use the most current contact list for communicating via email. Janet also announced that Upper Merion Township received an award from the PA Water Environment Association called the Golden Raindrop Award. The Golden Raindrop acknowledges extraordinary personal service to the association while working to promote stormwater management, operation, and maintenance, and is a direct result of work that the EAC has done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for April 27th.
- The EAC Networking Conference will be held in Lancaster on May 6th.
- The Master Watershed Steward Volunteer Training Program class will start April 5th and run until June 21st. The twelve week training program is run by Penn State University and teaches about water stewardship.

ADJOURNMENT:

In response to Kate's inquiry, Sal motioned to adjourn. Brittany seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Katherine Vaccaro, Chairperson

Minutes Approved: _____

Minutes Entered: _____