

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017
6:45 P.M.**

The Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its scheduled meeting August 15, 2017 in the Upper Merion Township Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE:

Katherine Vaccaro
John Weilmann, Vice-Chair
Brittany Grala, Secretary
Stacey Henderson
Zachary Davis
Sal Sonsino
Greg Waks, Board Liaison
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison

ABSENT:

Christopher Kaasmann

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

In response to Kate's request, John motioned to approve the July 18, 2017 meeting minutes. Brittany seconded. All voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

Farmers Market/Rain Barrels:

Several entries for the rain barrel drawing were received at the last farmers market and seven were drawn to be given away. The EAC members in attendance received suggestions for additional raffles from community members including bat boxes and compost bins. The EAC will look into adding these items to their Board of Community Assistance Grant application for 2018, and will also consider purchasing them with funds left in the 2017 budget. Kate has also reached out to Lydia Dan-Sardinas to discuss the elimination of the use of plastic bags at the Farmers Market.

Emerald Ash Borer Presentation:

Kate has been in communication with the Shade Tree Commission and a task force is being formed to respond to the emerald ash borer issue in Upper Merion Township. The plan for removal has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2017. Kate will find out from the Shade Tree Commission what is being implemented thus far regarding public outreach and education.

Trash Hauling and Commercial Recycling:

The EAC tabled discussion and voting on the topic of alternative scheduling for trash hauling until the September meeting. John will coordinate with Bob Rudzinski to make educational materials regarding the appropriate disposal of yard waste.

Meadow Installation:

Krista Scheirer is no longer employed with the Montgomery County Conservation District but will still coordinate with the district, the Schuylkill Action Network, and the EAC to have a meadow installed if the opportunity is still available. Janet will follow up with the Park and Recreation Department to come up with a list of potential areas for the installation.

Township Community Fair:

The Township Community Fair is on Saturday October 14th. John will reach out to the Township's Marketing and Events Planner to discuss asking businesses for donations for giveaways.

Green Procurement Policy:

The Township's Public Works Department is making changes to become LEED Certified. The EAC will find out if the township is allowed to adopt a green procurement policy, and if it would be economically feasible.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS LIAISON'S REPORT:

The Board of Supervisors would like the EAC to look into solar initiatives for the township building and other township facilities, as well as any information that could be provided to residents about the benefits of solar installation. Greg also reported that the Police Chief is looking into how other municipalities handle littering, and what the township can legally do to increase the fine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The citizen board luncheon is October 29th from 12-2.
- The Shade Tree Commission is looking into re-implementing their program to sell low cost trees to residents for 2017.

ADJOURNMENT:

In response to Kate's inquiry, Sal motioned to adjourn. Zach seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Katherine Vaccaro, Chairperson

Minutes Approved: _____

Minutes Entered: _____