

Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for July 8th, 2020

The Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on July 8th, 2020 via WebEx (due to COVID-19.) The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE:

Zach Davis, Chair
Alexandra Moulton, Vice-Chair
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison
Carole Kenney, Board Liaison
Kabindra Shakya
Carol Ryan
David Newman
Louise Willis

ABSENT:

Pepper Francis, Student Liaison
Brittany Grala

MEETING MINUTES:

Due to the meeting being held remotely, Mr. Davis and Ms. Serfass agreed that it would be acceptable for the March 2020 meeting minutes to be approved verbally and then signed by Ms. Serfass. With that said, Mr. Newman moved to approve the March 2020 meeting minutes with Ms. Moulton seconding and all in favor.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Electronics Recycling Event

Ms. Serfass and Ms. Kenney will work with township representatives to determine if the electronics recycling event that was to be held on Earth Day should be held at a later date with social distancing parameters in place. Once it is established whether it is feasible, Ms. Moulton will work with the recycling company, PAR, on arranging the event.

Single-Use Plastics

The state ban on banning single-use plastic expires January 1, 2021. Mr. Davis suggested that they start formulating a plan and touching base with business owners within the township in order to get a head start. Many councilmembers felt that due to the COVID-19 crisis having no foreseeable end-date and the heavy reliance on single-use materials, this may not be the best time to be reaching out about implementing a single-use plastics ban. Mr. Davis agreed, but still noted that the council should be using this time to prepare so that they can hit the ground running when the appropriate time comes. As he and Ms. Moulton had started developing the framework for the single-use plastics project, he will be sharing what they have so far so that any other members interested in single-use plastics in particular could take over some of the project responsibilities for the time being.

Ready for 100

Mr. Davis attended the Chester County RF100's remote introductory event for a 12-week series of 90-minute seminars (held remotely) about how to effectively transition a community to renewable energy by 2035. The outlined subject matter for each of the seminars reflected the path that the township would be following in their own renewable energy plan so Mr. Davis felt that it would be a great resource for the

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council and the township to utilize, especially since they will not be hiring an energy planner. To sign up for the seminars is \$50.00 per township (not individual representatives), with each township having at least two representatives. Mr. Davis volunteered to be one of the representatives and Ms. Serfass suggested that she or Ms. Kenney reach out to Geoff Hickman, the director of the township Public Works Department, to either be the second representative or select a proxy. The possibility of having each councilmember sign up as additional representatives and rotate who attends the meetings was discussed, but there were concerns that documenting and sharing meeting summaries may not be efficient. Ms. Kenney will bring the seminar information to the Board of Supervisors to be sure that a resolution or other action does not need to be taken prior to participant confirmation as Plymouth Township passed a resolution in support of the seminars.

Mr. Davis mentioned during this time it may be a good idea to work on the Ready for 100 taskforce and mission statement. Mr. Shakya has a connection to the Villanova engineering department which may be a better channel to obtain power consumption information for the township as there have been several obstacles trying to get the information from PECO. Ms. Serfass also suggested PA Powerswitch as a potential source of that information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rain Barrels – Miss Maisie’s Garden and the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace & Social Justice Garden

Ms. Kenney received requests for rain barrels from two community gardens and asked if it would be possible to donate any of the leftover rain barrels to them. Ms. Serfass said that there were six rain barrels left, so they could donate the requested barrels so long as they are not dedicated to anyone else.

Mr. Davis held a vote on approving the donation of two rain barrels to Miss Maisie’s garden and all present councilmembers were in favor.

Mr. Davis held a vote on approving the donation of two rain barrels to the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace and Social Justice Garden and all present councilmembers were in favor.

New Member Applications

A new member application was received in April 30th, 2020. The application will be reviewed for a possible interview.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Newman moved to adjourn the meeting with Carol Ryan seconding and all in favor.

Zach Davis, Chair

Minutes Approved: _____

Minutes Entered: _____