

**Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via WebEx (due to COVID-19.) The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Pepper Francis, Student Liaison  
Alexandra Moulton, Vice-Chair  
Elizabeth Goernemann

**MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the August 2020 meeting minutes with Ms. Willis seconding and all in favor.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:**

*Ready for 100 – Clean Energy Series*

Mr. Davis provided a recap of the last few seminars for the Clean Energy Series, which focused mainly on township operations.

While Mr. Davis is going to further breakdown the data provided from the last few seminars, he showed several informative slides regarding emissions put out by the township, CO2 emissions from residential and commercial industries, and several types of conservation strategies. Some of the data provided by PECO showed that 71.4% of all emissions put out by the township come from the township building, the community center, and the Trout Run and Matsunk sewer treatment facilities.

Conservation strategies discussed included switching some township vehicles to electric vehicles, installing sensor and timer-activated lighting and HVAC systems, and changing lighting to LED throughout the township building. Ms. Serfass noted that many of the changes being suggested have already occurred, and to also keep in mind that the township building itself is aging and it may be a better idea to instead collect the financial data related to the necessary changes to determine whether it would be better to make those updates to the current township building or invest in a new building altogether. One contact from the Clean Energy Series is a green architect who has worked with townships to make more energy-efficient buildings and will be sending Mr. Davis more information on projects she's worked on.

*Review of Action Log Items*

Mr. Davis noted that there isn't anything that needs immediate action, but that progress is steadily being made throughout.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Park Partners Events*

September 12: Tree Tending Event, Heuser Park

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October 10: Stream Clean-up, Ross Road Field (Community Garden)

*Newsletter*

In an effort to renew interest in the EAC and educate residents on good environmental practices, it was determined that the township newsletter features should be resumed. As it previously was the responsibility of Ms. Grala, Mr. Davis suggested that a GoogleDoc be created so that each member can submit things as they're able to and everyone can work together on it. Ms. Kenney suggested that they could also recycle some of the previously posted features that are still relevant.

*Membership*

The Environmental Advisory Council is pleased to welcome Elizabeth Goernemann as their newest member.

Ms. Kenney mentioned that she recently spoke to Ms. Grala who expressed interest in returning to the EAC. While her seat was just filled by Ms. Goernemann, she is more than welcome to resume attending meetings as a resident and contribute. A suggestion made was that she could head the previously discussed "Friends of the EAC."

**LIAISON COMMENTS**

*Board of Supervisors*

Ms. Kenney noted that the Environmental Quality Board will be voting on the Northeastern Greenhouse Gas Initiative and suggested that members encourage as many as possible to email the board to show their support for the initiative.

*Township Staff*

Ms. Serfass highlighted that all of the industries she represents currently have charging stations on-site and that businesses throughout the township are very active in doing what they can to reduce their environmental impact. She said further that the council should not be under the impression that it would be difficult to convince local businesses, regardless of size, that they should be committing to clean energy.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Zach Davis, Chair

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes Entered: \_\_\_\_\_