

Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for December 9th, 2020

The Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on December 9th, 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
Louise Willis
David Newman
Elizabeth Goernemann

ABSENT:

Carol Ryan

MEETING MINUTES:

The motion to approve the October 2020 Meeting Minutes was made by Ms. Willis and seconded by Mr. Shakya with all in favor.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Ready for 100 – Clean Energy Series

The regularly-scheduled clean energy series has concluded, but it has been extended another 10 weeks beginning in January to allow for the different municipalities to continue to work together to create an energy transition plan that the entire region can be aligned to and make progress at a steady pace. Mr. Davis presented the ongoing notes from the series which have been organized into initiatives and actionable items to be accomplished in 1-2 year periods beginning in 2021. Mr. Davis noted that out of the many municipalities involved Upper Merion is several steps ahead in terms of clean energy and better practices, and is one of the few involved that has high-level staff working directly with their respective EAC on the series.

Mr. Davis will be reaching out to Mr. Hickman to confirm some final data, then by the next meeting the council will be able to vote on the items to present to the Board.

Newsletter Feature

Ms. Goernemann prepared several blurbs for the newsletter relating to LED bulbs, winter coat donations, and environmentally-friendly ice melting alternatives to salt (like beet juice and alfalfa.) It was suggested that the blurbs provide locations on where to buy alternative materials as well as explaining why the alternatives may be better-suited.

Mr. Davis asked that members continue to brainstorm and submit ideas, and in the meantime, he will prepare the existing blurbs to be submitted to PIO for publication.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

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Mr. Davis distributed the coalition letter in support of PA joining RGII and asked for the council's input on whether they should vote to sign. While all are in favor of supporting the initiative, the question of whether the EAC should be signing on behalf of the township or if the Board should. It was determined that in the

interest of time it would be better to have the EAC sign and then make a recommendation to the Board that they review the letter and sign in support with the EAC after the fact.

Mr. Newman made a motion for Mr. Davis to sign the coalition letter on behalf of the EAC in support of PA joining RGII, with Ms. Willis seconding and all in favor.

Mr. Davis made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors review the coalition letter and encourage their further support, with Ms. Willis seconding and all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

EAC-ECDC Joint BCA Grant Proposal

Ms. Goernemann and Mr. Davis both joined the recent ECDC meeting to discuss a possible joint-proposal for a BCA grant relating to the installation of more EV charging stations on township properties. Due to the condition of some of the existing charging stations at the municipal building and their high volume of use, it was suggested by Ms. Serfass that they should prioritize replacing some of the defective chargers as well as adding additional ones. She further noted that in the future the township may switch their fleet vehicles to electric, so additional charging stations would be necessary at that time. As discussions are ongoing, quotes for different types of chargers and quantities will be obtained to determine the funds necessary.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Board of Supervisors

Ms. Kenney noted that she will be holding several interviews for the vacant EAC position, and has had several inquiries regarding the student position. She's hopeful that the new member will be decided by the January meeting.

Ms. Kenney was invited to join the Clean Jobs for PA Coalition, which works in conjunction with RGII to create more jobs related to clean energy. She has forwarded the information to the councilmembers for review.

Staff

Ms. Serfass mentioned that Walmart currently uses 100% recycled materials for their plastic bags, so for the Single-Use Plastics Ban perhaps it would be wise to include the option for recycled materials, not just an all-out ban (especially considering the need for single-use objects during the pandemic.)

Ms. Serfass reminded the council that the upcoming meeting on January 13th, 2021 at 6:30 PM will be the reorganizational meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT:

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

Zach Davis, Chair

Minutes Approved: _____

Minutes Entered: _____