

**Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for April 14th, 2021**

The Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on April 14th, 2021 via Zoom (due to COVID-19.) The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE:

Zach Davis, Chair
Elizabeth Goernemann, Vice Chair
Brittany Grala, Secretary
Carol Ryan
Louise Willis
David Newman
Carole Kenney, Board Liaison
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison
Ashley Nguyen, Student Member
Jocelyn Bilker, Guest

ABSENT:

Kabindra Shakya

MEETING MINUTES:

The motion to approve the March 2021 Meeting Minutes was made by Ms. Ryan and seconded by Ms. Grala, with all in favor.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

RF 100 Update/Next Steps

Mr. Davis updated the group on the progress made by the Regional advocacy group and mentioned that Upper Merion will play a pivotal role in leading this going forward.

Discussion took place on community outreach efforts to recognize local businesses that are having positive impacts toward environmental goals and already taking steps. Ms. Kenney suggested recognizing one organization a week as a way to encourage other businesses to also start making changes toward sustainability. Some businesses noted as having expanded EV chargers include UGI, Arkema, the KoP Mall, and Sheraton. Having something like a "Green Hall of Fame" to highlight these companies could help promote their efforts. We would like to support local businesses such as Tiffin that are doing sustainable practices by mentioning them in our township e-newsletter and website. Discussion also was had on recognizing residents who too are going green (installing geothermal, solar panels, etc.).

2021 BCA Grant Update

Mr. Davis gave an overview of the grant proposals he has been working hard on. The first proposal is a partnership with the Community Center Advisory Board to get energy audits performed in the Upper Merion township building and community center. The second proposal is a partnership with the ECDC to get replacement EV charging stations installed at the township building. Both grant proposals will be submitted for consideration for the BCA grant money.

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Earth Day Grab Bags

Ms. Goernemann said about 40 grab bags were registered for by township residents. She made a flyer that will be included in the bags to provide information about the EAC. Some of the EAC's funding was used to order supplies from the Container Store for the bags also. Discussion took place on starting an EAC email account for correspondence. Ms. Serfass said rain barrel certificates will be included as well in 12 of the grab bags, at random.

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnering with UM Park Partners for more clean-ups and events

Ms. Grala talked about working with local residents and reaching out to Gerri Vattimo and others in the township who we can partner with to form more street and stream clean up events. We will look into working with the Schuylkill Scrub again and United by Blue. Ms. Kenney mentioned the tree mulch and weed event taking place on April 17th.

Memo from Sen. Cappalletti

Ms. Grala mentioned efforts being made by local representatives in the PA State Senate as well as the US Congress to promote environmental awareness and outreach.

LIAISON COMMENTS

Staff Liaison

Ms. Serfass talked about meeting the MS4 requirement later this year with a plan to rehabilitate a stream in the township. At that time, help will be needed to plant vegetation around the stream. She also suggested instead of having awards for the organizations doing Green initiatives that we should "Spotlight" them.

Board of Supervisors

Ms. Kenney brought up the newsletter piece and recommended having one person on the EAC take responsibility to have a suggested sustainable practice or helpful information showcased at least every other week in the e-newsletter. She mentioned that she is looking forward to spending more time on EAC efforts after her retirement from her job at the end of April. She also talked about the next zoning hearing board meeting and stormwater plans for a proposed plan by a local school.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Zach Davis, Chair

Minutes Approved: _____

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Minutes Entered: _____