

**Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Regularly Scheduled Meeting for May 12th, 2021**

The Upper Merion Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) met for its regularly scheduled meeting on May 12th, 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  
Louise Willis  
Kabindra Shakya  
Carol Ryan  
David Newman  
Carole Kenney, Board Liaison  
Janet Serfass, Staff Liaison  
Komal Jha, Guest

**ABSENT:**

Brittany Grala, Secretary  
Ashley Nguyen, Student Member

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The motion to approve the April 2021 Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Newman and seconded by Ms. Ryan, 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 the final wrap up session will be held in two weeks. He said the Energy Transition Plan will be complete by the end of June and will send to the group for review before meeting with the BOS.

Next steps after that point will be community outreach and education efforts and Mr. Davis mentioned having a subcommittee for this. He asked for interest from members to form this; Ms. Willis, Ms. Goernemann, and Ms. Ryan all expressed interest.

Mr. Davis mentioned he received old Vimeo videos put together by prior EAC members and asked if anyone on our current EAC might want to watch & review these to see if they are still relevant/could be put out again for the community to view.

Ms. Kenney brought up the township e-newsletter and suggested we have a blurb in each week's correspondence to highlight different environmental topics. She said we could start with a collection of at least 20 that we could cycle through. Discussion took place on possible contributions and what each member of the group could offer. Mr. Davis added a link to the Google Drive Newsletter Folder and a link where members can add items under Newsletter Topics.

*2021 BCA Grant Update*

Mr. Davis said we should hear back within the next few days if our proposals were selected by the BCA. The first proposal is a partnership with the Community Center Advisory Board to get energy audits

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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.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*In-person/hybrid meetings moving forward*

Mr. Davis said we can start thinking about changing our format back to in-person meetings if the group wishes to do so. Ms. Kenney gave an update on some other township groups and said a hybrid option would be possible through the end of the year for anyone who does not feel comfortable returning to the township building for monthly meetings. Ms. Serfass mentioned the attendance has been much higher since going remote and said the hybrid option would be ideal from administrative, participation, and recording points of view. Members went around the group and gave feedback on their comfort level and preference. We will continue to meet using a hybrid approach.

*New EAC email*

[UMT.EAC@gmail.com](mailto:UMT.EAC@gmail.com) – Zach and Janet both have access to this new email account for the group.

*Collaborating with local groups*

T/E Green Team – “Sustainable Storefronts” is an idea to showcase businesses in the area that are making strides in environmental efforts. Mr. Davis gave information on this and said he would reach out to Kristen McCann (organizer of the group) to gather additional details and the call link. He sent the link to the Haverford Rain Garden Facebook page and talked about starting a rain garden on his property. Ms. Serfass suggested documenting and publicizing it for community involvement & education outreach. Ms. Willis talked about starting the installation of solar panels on her home and said Jackson from the nonprofit Solarize Montgomery County wants to speak to our group at a future meeting to promote the organization.

Sunrise Berwyn is a group of young people in local high schools trying to get municipalities to adopt RF100 initiatives. Mr. Davis gave an overview of some of their efforts and said he would send info to Komal, Jocelyn, and Ashley so they can coordinate with UM schools as well.

**LIAISON COMMENTS**

*Staff Liaison*

Ms. Serfass talked about vetting organizations and sending them to Janet before being promoted publicly. She said only two people came to collect rain barrels from the Earth Day grab bags; we have three rain barrels and six compost bins left to distribute.

*Board of Supervisors*

Ms. Kenney brought up the Farmers Market and said there will be a Fourth of July celebration in the township with a carnival spanning across three days, July 2-4. She mentioned an upcoming fundraising event benefiting the library at Choolaah on May 21<sup>st</sup> and talked about “Mulch Mountain” and concerns that have been brought forth about it. Lastly, Ms. Kenney said she retired from her job at UGI in April.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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**Zach Davis, Chair**

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

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