

UM Township EAC Meeting Minutes  
July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The meeting started shortly after 6:30PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance taken:

**Zoom:** (2) Louise Willis, Jocelyn Bilker

**In Person:** (4) Zach Davis, Rose Grosso, Kabindra Shakya, Mark Vondra

**Absent:** (3) Theresa Landewe, Vicki Meitus, Carole Kenney

Approval of June 14, 2023, minutes; Mark moves, Kabindra seconds; passes 4-0

**Old Business:**

● **Plastic Pollution Reduction Ordinance Update:**

- Board of Supervisors vote is scheduled for Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM in Freedom Hall. Would like to see people to attend in support of Ordinance.
- EAC continued to reach out to various small businesses to get feedback. There was little to no negative feedback. The only comment was from one business that stated Styrofoam cups were preferred by customers when business started. EAC discussed and stated many alternatives now exist and not a significant problem in today's world.

● **Rain Garden Discussion:**

- Primarily tabled until August meeting. Will look to schedule ad hoc meeting with Shade Tree Commission and Sewer and Stormwater Authority.
- Rain garden presentation by a PSU Extension Master Gardener is scheduled for the evening of September 11<sup>th</sup> at the UM Township Library. Use as an opportunity to educate residents and also recruit volunteers

● **Farmers Market rotating table:**

- EAC on the calendar for September 30<sup>th</sup>. EAC to think about what info to have at the table.

New Business:

- **SEPA Regional EAC Meeting:** Group of Montco municipalities is interested in hosting a roundtable amongst primarily eastern Montco communities to align on EAC initiatives. Zach to send survey out to EAC.
  
- **Plastic-mesh landscape matting:**
  - Based on feedback from other committees and boards, the EAC was asked to consider a vote recommending the ban of plastic-mesh landscape matting within Upper Merion.
  - After discussion about the negatives of the material and agreement that many safer alternatives exist, the following motion was voted on and passed 4-0. Motion by Mark, second by Kabindra.
    - The EAC recommends to the Board of Supervisors to ban the use of all plastic landscape matting/mesh for Upper Merion township staff, landscapers, residents, businesses, and property owners on municipal properties, residential properties, and commercial properties. All replacements must be biodegradable to protect the environment of Upper Merion and PA.
  
- Solar in Upper Merion
  - EAC to begin researching solar potential at various locations in the township – UM Township building, unusable land, wastewater treatment facilities, etc.
  
- ECDC Collaboration
  - Zach to attend ECDC meeting to discuss potential collaboration that would recognize local businesses for being sustainable.
  - EAC previously pursued this initiative, but redirected efforts elsewhere.
  
- Citizen Board Appreciation Social
  - September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Upper Merion Township Pool
  - 5-7:30p

Staff Liaison Comments:

- Rose asked about providing compost bins and rain barrels to residents that have inquired as there are 6 and 2 remaining, respectively.
  - Will provide 2 rain barrels to residents
  - Will provide 3-4 of existing compost bins to residents
- Rose to work with Geoff to get an update on goals and objectives related to Solar in the township.

Additional Business:

- N/A

Board Liaison Comments:

- N/A

Public Comments: No public comments

Adjournment: Roughly 7:45 PM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Geoff', written in a cursive style.

02 Aug 2023