

## UM Township EAC Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2024

The meeting started at 6:40 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Attendance:**

**In Person:** (8) Zachary Davis, Rose Grosso, Vicki Meitus, Mark Vondra, Theresa Landewe, Carole Kenney, Amanda Lafty, Drew McNally

**Zoom:** (3) Louise Willis, Jocelyn Bilker, Kabrinda Shakya

**Absent:** (1) Joel Miner

Approval of November and December 2023 minutes that were deferred to January meeting were presented. Mark moved and Theresa seconded.

### **Public Comment:**

Drew McNally, from the community, came to voice his concern about being charged money for bags at Township locations, giving the examples of Chick-fil-A and The Gap, where they are now charging for bags that they had been using in the past. Zach indicated the ordinance is to reduce single use bags (plastic and paper) and to encourage people to bring their reusable bags when they shop. Conversation included the goal is overall reduction of bags. It is telling people that bags cost money and therefore bring your own bag to avoid the cost. More information will be added to the FAQ page regarding why that is in place. Drew indicated there are often comments on many of the FB pages related to the Township (King of Prussia, Upper Merion Township, etc.) regarding the cost of these bags.

### **Reorganization Meeting:**

- a. Chairperson will continue to be Zach; Vice-Chairperson will continue to be Theresa and Secretary will continue to be Vicki Meitus. All were moved and seconded.
- b. Meeting Time will be 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM
- c. Meeting location will be in 232.

### **Rain Garden Project Update:**

- a. Current Project, across from middle school in Volpe Park, was looked at yesterday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, and there was lots of water due to the rain. Will be monitoring the status.
- b. Looking at the Rain Garden project in Ross Road to be started in April 2024. Will need to order plants and have some remaining trees. Earth Day this year fall on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> so events may be on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> but not scheduled.
- c. Need to confirm the signage.

**EAC Network Virtual Conference:** continuation of virtual conference from October 2023. If interested in going, let Zach know. Possibility to have a room at Township building where we can attend. Breakdown is welcome, lightning session, breakouts. Approximately 9:00-3:30

- a. Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>
- b. <https://weconservepa.org/eac-network-conference/>

**Artificial Turf:** Carole has spoken with others who indicate they do not understand why artificial turf is not good. Need to educate the township regarding Artificial turf is not the best for the township fields. From environmental standpoint argument is not as strong as the health of the children and possibilities for injuries.

### **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

- a. There will be another tour date, Theresa interested in going.
- b. Discussed could Upper Merion support a new sewer system, like the one in Phoenixville.

### **Healthy Lawn/Sustainable Lawn Program**

- a. Possible idea for a BCA Grant. Discussion on what are we doing now to lawns, what type of treatments, what type of grasses. Need to look at implementation of meadows and paths.

**BCA Grants**

- a. BCA grants need to be applied by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Ideas may include more solar in township, more EV chargers, etc.

**New Business:**

- a. Upper Merion comprehensive Plan: will be coming down the road
- b. Shade Tree Bamboo Ordinance: will share with committee to see. Is there any other invasive species that should be included?

**Staff Liaison Comments: none**

**Board Liaison Comments:** Mentioned that Maine has passed law where no more of Maine's land can be used for landfill and landfill needs to be sent to Nova Scotia

**Additional Comments: none**

**Public Comments (General):** see above re: Drew Macnally's comments.

**Adjournment:** Mark made motion to adjourn 8:45 PM which was seconded by Theresa.



14 Feb 2024

