



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP

Minutes

175 W. Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1802

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 21st Meeting at 6:30 PM

Meeting Called to Order at 6:41 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

In Person: Zachary Davis, Mark Vondra, Carole Kenney, Rose Grosso

Zoom: Jaquelin Camp, Louise Willis

Absent: Theresa Landewe, Vicki Meitus, Kabrinda Shakaya

Approval of July 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes; motion by Mark, seconded by Jaquelin

Reports and Discussions

1. Next EAC Meeting is scheduled for October 16th
2. Council discussed the need to modify building codes to make new construction more energy efficient. This will require more meetings to come up with final recommendations to the Township Board, but ideas currently being discussed are:
 - Residences should be built to be solar ready (electrical upgrades, roof supports, etc)
 - Residences should be built to easily add EV charging to the property.
 - Commercial buildings should provide EVCS-ready parking spots
3. The Township Plastics Ban overall appears to be going well. The ban on plastic utensils including PLA and CPLA is facing minor difficulties. PLA and CPLA are being marketed as environmentally responsible products however only under the most ideal conditions does CPLA decompose safely. Commercial trash haulers do not provide adequate disposal of these items and therefore microplastics are introduced into the environment. More education is needed to insure local businesses are complying with the ordinance.
4. EAC is considering edits to single use plastics ordinance, including recommending removing references to "plastic straws by request" in the Plastic Utensils Ban Ordinance. Plastic straws are mandated by Federal ADA Laws, so this supercedes any ordinance we write. The wording referencing plastic straws should be replaced with verbiage indicating businesses need to adhere to ADA requirements for those with disabilities regarding straws.
5. EAC revisited the EV Charging Ordinance passed by the township and emphasized why the current code for EV charging is in part impractical and not in the interest of promoting EV adoption in Upper Merion. The current ordinance also has sections where the wording is unclear and may restrict EV charging station locations that was not intended. The recommendation is for the UM Township Board of Supervisors to revisit this ordinance and revise it to align with the Bucks County EVCS model ordinance.

New Business

1. EAC Regional Conference is October 5th at The Temple Ambler Campus. EAC members are encouraged to attend this event. The UM EAC is planning to participate in the following areas:
 - a. artificial turf restrictions
 - b. parking reform



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2. Next month the EAC needs to look at our current list of items and prioritize the list of concerns.
3. EAC is looking to centralize documentation. A Google Drive solution may be the best avenue forward.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment : Louise moved to ajourn meeting and Mark second after 9 PM

Submitted by: M. Vondra, Board Member

Approved by: Zach Davis

Date: 18-Sep-2024

Signature: 