

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JANUARY 8th, 2019**

PRESENT: Eric Allen (Chair), Tamara Lesh (Vice Chair), Christy Cheever, Deirdre Alderfer, Hope Blaythorne, Barry Fetterolf, Christine Terranova (Administrator) and Kevin Morrissey (Liaison).

ABSENT: David Benner

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 13th, 2018

Upon a Motion by Deirdre Alderfer, seconded by Christy Cheever, the meeting minutes for November 13th, 2018 were unanimously approved.

III. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Barry Fetterolf, EAC unanimously agreed to nominate Tamara Lesh as the 2019 Vice Chair of the Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Alderfer announced that the Delaware Canal Advisory Committee will be meeting on January 10th.

Ms. Blaythorne suggested that a "Reclamation Subcommittee" be formed to address the reclamation of the quarry and to support oversight of the environmental aspects of the over 200 acres of land that will be open for development in a challenged watershed environment. Supervisor John Francis noted in an email that forming a formal subcommittee would be a problem because of resolutions, etc. He felt that EAC may want to consider creating an Ad Hoc research group instead.

It was noted that electric charging stations would be installed at the Virginia Forest Recreation Area for public use.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Allen asked if EAC members would be willing to move the time of the monthly meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Majority of people were in favor of leaving the meeting time at 7:00 p.m.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

This topic is considered to be a priority for 2019.

The Deer Management Committee will continue to promote property owners to sign up their properties for deer hunting. It is hopeful that the committee will have an opportunity to meet with State Senator Steve Santarsievo to discuss the deer management program in Solebury Township and continue to move forward in making progress with the program. It was noted that ten new properties have been added to the program.

Recycling (Christy Cheever, Tamara Lesh and Deirdre Alderfer)

This topic is considered to be a priority for 2019.

It was noted that EAC members would like to promote an annual cleanup day within the Township and to possibly adopt a highway. Ms. Cheever volunteered to contact the Adopt A Highway organization to find out which Solebury Township roads are currently designated for Adopt-A-Highway.

Ms. Alderfer volunteered to reach out to the "Keep America Beautiful" program for additional information.

Chair Allen requested that the topic of "Cleanup Day Program" be added to the EAC agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Alderfer requested that the topic of "Green Building Credits" be added to the EAC agenda under Discussion Items.

Banning of Plastic and Plastic Usage by Local Businesses

This topic is considered to be a priority for 2019.

Jordan Yeager, Township Solicitor, reached out to Logan Welde of Clean Air Council, who is a strong advocate and suggested the risks of placing a ban in a Second Class Municipality. He suggested approaching local businesses to get a start for support and an opinion. The overall opinion is uncertainty to do the banning. First, you need to define financial risks and maybe have EAC carve out a process of restrictions and regulations to start. Second, cautiously draft an ordinance as guidelines; and after a determined period of time, recommend the guidelines to be adopted into an ordinance. Third, create violations for the ordinance for once it has been adopted. Fourth, consider a bag tax vs. bag use vs. bag fee.

Mr. Morrissey stated that this topic would be discussed at next week's executive session which would include the Township Manager, Dennis Carney and Township Solicitor, Jordan Yeager.

Ms. Alderfer spoke with Logan Welde of Clean Air Council who provided a copy of the proposed ordinance for the City of Philadelphia (copy attached).

Ms. Cheever also provided an article provided to the committee entitled, "19 N.J. cities banned plastic bags in 2018. Philly could join them in 2019."

Aquetong Spring Park (Barry Fetterolf and Kevin Morrissey)

This topic is considered to be a priority for 2019.

Simone Collins is currently working on the master plan and the stream bed of Aquetong Park. Next items to address will be the Judy House, trails, Art Park and stream restoration.

Princeton Hydro is working with a plan to remove the sediment (design then erosion control) and may start stream restoration as early as the summer, 2019.

Wild Area Stewardship

A. Watershed Management (Hope Blaythorne)

This topic is considered to be a priority for 2019.

VI. Public Comment

No discussion

VII. Adjournment

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Tamara Lesh, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator

City of Philadelphia

BILL NO. XXXX

Introduced XX, 2018

Councilmembers Squilla, Bass, Reynolds-Brown

Referred to the Committee on the Environment

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Chapter 9 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Businesses, Trades and Professions," by adding a new Chapter 9-4500, entitled "Checkout Bag Charge," to regulate the use of checkout bags by banning certain plastic bags and establishing a fee, payable by the consumer for the use of checkout bags when purchasing, or transporting food or other products, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 9 of The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 9. REGULATION OF BUSINESSES, TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

* * *

CHAPTER 9-4100. CHECKOUT BAG CHARGE.

§9-4501. Definitions.

(1) "Department" shall mean the Department of Licenses and Inspections or such other agency as the Mayor may designate.

(2) "Plastic" is a material that is mainly, but not exclusively produced from oil by a chemical process and that is used to make many objects. It is light in weight and does not break easily.

(3) "Single-use Plastic Bag" means an item intended to carry a consumable good or any other item that is made from plastic and is less than 2.25 mils thick.

(4) "Single-use Paper Bag" means an item usually made out of kraft paper that is intended to allow a customer to carry food, or other products inside of it and it can either have handles or not.

(5) "Retail Establishment" means a place, indoor or outdoor, where food or other products are

offered to the public for sale, including the following: supermarket, convenience store, shop, service station, department store, clothing store, restaurant, food truck, farmers' market, dry cleaner, delivery service.

(6) "Reusable Bag" means a bag or container designed and manufactured for multiple reuses. A Reusable Bag can be composed of a number of materials, including, but not limited to: cloth or fiber, treated grain bag, wire, or natural basket. A Reusable Bag must have a minimum lifetime of 125 uses, meaning the capability of carrying a minimum of 22 pounds 125 times over a distance of at least 175 feet. Is capable of being washed so as to be cleaned and disinfected at least 100 times. If made of plastic, the Reusable Bag must be made of a durable material, and at least 2.25 mils thick.

(7) "Checkout Bag Charge" means the fee imposed on Single-use Paper and Reusable Bags under this Chapter.

§9-4502. Imposition of a Checkout Bag Charge.

(1) No later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of the ordinance added by this Section, all Retail Establishments must post at all points of sale conspicuous signage informing customers that Single-use Plastic Bags will no longer be available, the amount of the Checkout Bag Charge, who will be affected, the date fee collection will begin, and any other information mandated by the Department.

(2) No later than ninety (90) days after the effective date of the ordinance added by this Section, no Retail Establishment shall provide a Single-use Plastic Bag, and all Retail Establishments shall collect a ten cent (\$0.10) fee for each Single-use Paper Bag and Reusable Bag provided to any customer. It shall be a violation of this Chapter for any Retail Establishment to pay or otherwise reimburse a customer for any portion of the Checkout Bag Charge.

(3) Any Retail Establishment that is required to collect the Checkout Bag Charge shall indicate on the customer transaction receipt the number of Single-use Paper or Reusable Bags provided and the total amount of the Checkout Bag Charge charged.

(4) The Department (i) shall enforce the requirements of this Chapter on Retail Establishments.

§9-4503. Exemptions. The following shall be excluded from the definition of Plastic Bag, Single-use Paper or Reusable Bag and no fee will be assessed for purposes of this Chapter:

(1) a bag used inside stores by customers to deliver perishable items to the point of sale, at that store:

- (a) to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy;
- (b) to contain or wrap meats or fish;
- (c) to contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods;
- (d) to contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or similar items where dampness may be a problem;

(2) a bag used to contain newspaper; or

(3) a bag sold in packages containing multiple bags and intended, as the initial use, for use as garbage containment, pet waste, or yard waste.

§9-4504. Interest, Penalties, Fines and Costs.

(1) Any Retail Establishment that fails to comply with the provisions of this Chapter shall be subject to additional fines in the same manner and amounts as those imposed under Subsections 19-509(5), 19-509(6) and 19-509(7) of The Philadelphia Code.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.