

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2015 MEETING

PRESENT: Jim Searing (Chair), Hope Blaythorne (Vice Chair), Barry Fetterolf and Christine Terranova (EAC Administrator).

ABSENT: David Benner and Eric Allen

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Diane Smith, Bucks County Audubon Society

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

Jim Searing called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 6th, 2015

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Hope Blaythorne, the meeting minutes for August 6th, 2015 were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mulching/Composting Program

- What do other townships do?
- Logistics of the program and what would be required
- Possible starting points
- Possible objections
- Issues created by current practices
- Partnership opportunities
- Costs
- Regulations/policies needed

The township does have a “leaf collection” truck used to take care of the swales within the township and then the collections are distributed to local farms for mulch. The trash haulers hired within the township will collect bags of leaves that are picked up on the scheduled trash pickup days. Collect and compost is a better idea along with mulching with your own mower attachment. Burning leaves is not the best alternative.

Mr. Fetterolf presented a brown leaf bag as an example from Buckingham Township’s leaf program.

Most townships with leaf collection programs are larger and have a denser population to benefit in collecting the leaves.

What makes sense for Solebury? Bag pickups should be limited to concentrated

areas; not large acreage properties. The township should try to endorse compost piles on individual properties through education on how to create and maintain a compost pile. The suggestion was made of creating a kit for people to purchase from the township with instructions for building your own compost pile. Homeowner associations could be contacted to educate their property owners on the process. The possibility of a “trial run” process was suggested.

It was noted that the simple steps would be as follows:
Collection.....processing....storage....distribution.

Mr. Fetterolf suggested for the township to partner with a landscaper that would be interested and willing to work together with the township on this project. Mr. Fetterolf volunteered to look into a possible partnership with a local company.

Do trash haulers consider this an increase in cost? This would need to be researched through the township.

It was noted a large location would be needed for the collection/distribution of the mulch and compost leaves. Would the township be able to use township-owned property for the project? Would the township be able to use a farm with a conservation easement on the property for use as a collection/distribution area? The question of whether township lands can be used for a mulch collection/distribution area would be asked to the Township Manager for a response or opinion. More research and investigating on the matter would need to be done. The township would have to experiment with the idea to see how it would work. EAC will work with Dave Benner to see what you would need to create a compost kit at a small cost.

Wild Area Stewardship

The EAC Administrator will provide a list of the township owned, wild lands, along with a map to show each location for the October meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS – None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Smith, Bucks County Audubon Society, provided EAC members with a brief discussion and a current handout entitled, “On-Going Bird Town Expectations” regarding goals, maintaining Bird Town and additional requirements as a member of Bird Town.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Jim Searing motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator