

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 12TH, 2021

PRESENT: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Hope Blaythorne, Jim Mansfield, Barry Fetterolf, William Birnes, Joe Kubiak, John Francis (Liaison) and Christine Terranova (Administrator)

AUDIENCE: Meghan Rogalus (Bucks County Conservation District), Philip Getty, Jade Greene, Bill Collins, Steven Saffier, Michael Zolkowitz, Brian Keyes, Rob Gladfelter, Karl Pettit and Michael Kennerley

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 9th, 2020

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Jim Mansfield, the meeting minutes for December 9th, 2020 were unanimously approved.

III. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by William Birnes, Christy Cheever was unanimously nominated to the position of Vice Chair of the Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council for 2021.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Allen announced that Doug Shaw has resigned from the EAC and that Joe Kubiak has now moved into the position of being a full member from being an Associate.

There was a brief discussion concerning the current lighting ordinance. Liaison Francis stated that the ordinance is under consideration by the Board of Supervisors to be updated and revised in the future.

Chair Allen welcomed the numerous volunteers from the watersheds and the Bucks County Conservation District representative, Meghan Rogalus, that were in attendance.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ready for 100 (Jim Mansfield)

Mr. Mansfield gave a brief summary of the Clean Energy Plan course that he and Mr. Francis are attending and will continue to attend until May, 2021. The Township is hoping to reach the goal of having clean, renewal electricity by 2035 and all clean power by 2050. It noted that the New York Times stated that General Motors is hoping to be all electric by 2025 and Volvo will be phasing out all gas and diesel vehicles by 2025.

Chair Allen asked if there is a proposed schedule to acknowledge the progress and is the Township proceeding as scheduled.

Mr. Mansfield stated that there is currently a schedule but the plan is to work on a much more stringent process in order to meet the timelines of the goals. The Township has been very positive at being involved with the process and in reaching the goals.

Rules & Regulations (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated that Doug Shaw was the lead on this topic. Mr. Shaw was working on promoting energy efficiency with different aspects of the Township. Mr. Shaw made a presentation with the Historical Architectural Review Board at their December meeting regarding energy efficiency with historic restoration. The HARB was opposed with Mr. Shaw's proposals involving energy efficiency when working with historic restoration of windows and the use of solar shingles. The other topic of discussion was the streamlining of paper use on application submissions. HARB felt that the decision to cutback on the number of copies on an application was more of a supervisors' decision rather than HARB.

Wild Area Stewardship/Tree City/Bird Town (Hope Blaythorne)

Chair Allen stated that today he attended a Zoom meeting with Ms. Blaythorne and Stacy Carr-Poole, Executive Director of the Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow to discuss Bird Town. EAC would like for the Township to consider adopting a bird as a symbol of our environmental efforts and determined that the Wood Thrush would be a good choice. It was noted that Solebury Township EAC was very interested to reengage into the Bird Town program and adopting a bird would be a good start.

Ms. Blaythorne stated that the following items are of importance to the EAC as well as the watershed committees:

1. Water Monitoring
2. Tree Planting
3. Stormwater Management
4. Deer Management
5. Invasive Species
6. Adopt A Bird

Ms. Blaythorne stated that Primrose Creek Watershed has increased their water monitoring and will continue throughout 2021. Currently working with Delaware Canal Water Quality Project that just started and should continue through the year.

Ms. Blaythorne mentioned there has been an increase in sink holes within the Township, particularly at the Solebury School and Misty Hill Farm and will be an ongoing topic of discussion.

Mr. Michael Zolkowitz, President of the Aquetong Watershed Association, spoke about how the association was not able to do their 2020 annual survey due to COVID-19 and hopefully will be able to do it in the Spring, 2021 to continue their monitoring efforts.

Ms. Blaythorne stated the possibility of Solebury Township supporting Tree Town which would lead to grants for tree plantings within the community. Next step for EAC is to establish a tree board as an advisory council and work with the watersheds to apply for grants for tree plantings. With getting involved with Tree Town, it will help re-engage the Township with the Bird Town Program.

It was noted that there is a Bird Habitat Program that the Township may want to consider getting involved with, as well as adopting a bird for Solebury Township.

Mr. Getty mentioned that once the trees are planted that they will need someone to manage them.

Ms. Rogalus (Bucks County Conservation District) stated that the Keystone Ten Million Trees Program or the Trees Vitalize Watersheds Program may be something for the Township to consider getting involved with for planting trees.

Mr. Pettit suggested that township education is the idea in getting the information out to the community. Ms. Blaythorne felt that Arbor Day is the best opportunity in getting information out to people.

Chair Allen suggested the EAC should adopt an educational program in the form of a digital newsletter to help get the information out to residents.

Ms. Blaythorne stated that stormwater management has been placed on the back burner for now.

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated that the Township has hired Jay Kelly to begin a drone survey throughout the township beginning on February 15, 2021 to give the Township firm data on the existing deer population within the township. Once the data is collected then local legislators will be contacted to work on an action plan with the Township.

Plastic Regulation and Recycling (Christy Cheever)

Ms. Cheever stated that the Township has not received a response from Representative Wendy Thomas regarding the letter that was sent to her in mid-December, 2020.

Ms. Cheever did not have anything else to report at this time.

Invasive Species (Eric Allen)

Mr. Zolkowitz stated that a good native cure for the Spotted Lantern Fly is the praying mantis.

Mr. Pettit state that another good predator for the Spotted Lantern Fly is the yellow jacket.

Ms. Rogalus gave some information concerning the Spotted Lantern Fly through a seminar that she attended at Penn State in January, 2020.

Cold-Tar-Based Sealcoat (Joe Kubiak)

Mr. Kubiak stated the final draft letter that he intends to send out to the Homeowners Association Boards in Solebury Township was circulated to the committee members for review. There were a few minor changes that will be made before sending to the Board

of Supervisors for their review and comments. Hopefully the draft will be approved in order to mail out late March, 2021, prior to residents working on their driveway in the Spring.

There was a brief discussion regarding the tire dust from vehicle tires that is left on the roads and washes into the eco system to harm the environment and animals. See <https://www.loe.org/shows/shows.html?programID=20-P13-00050#top>. Go to the “Beyond the headlines” segment to learn about the effect of tires on fish. Having vegetated stormwater filtering systems and grassed verges can capture and hold such particulates to minimize inflow into streams.

It was noted that enforcement would be the hardest part of an ordinance of this type.

New Hope Solebury Quarry

Here are the links to view the drone footage of the quarry:

<https://youtu.be/blGsug4Aklk>

<https://youtu.be/rJP5YCfzK2s>

Charging Stations (Eric Allen)

It was noted there are no charging stations in Solebury Township.

Liaison Francis stated that the Township has applied for a grant to install two new charging stations at the township building.

Mr. Getty stated that to his knowledge to receive a grant the station would need to be within so many miles from an interstate in order to be available to the public.

Mr. Keyes suggested to install stations on the old Cartwheel property on Lower York Road near Logan Square.

Liaison Francis stated that there would need to be a conversation with the new developer on that matter.

VI. Public Comment

Ms. Blaythorne opened up the discussion to the watershed associations for any additional comments.

Mr. Zolkowitz, Aquetong Watershed, stated that the focus right now is on the Aquetong Spring Park and how it will be used by the community; the development of the 202 Corridor and the development of a water budget over the township with new developments.

Mr. Keyes stated that a community cleanup took place in October, 2020 which was delayed from the annual Earth Day cleanup in April, 2020 due to COVID-19.

There was a brief discussion on revisiting the idea of the Township adopting a part of a highway for cleanup on Earth Day.

Mr. Getty spoke about the Copper Nose Creek Watershed Association on the glen near Greenhill Road. Mr. Getty stated that he did revegetate along the riparian buffer.

Ms. Rogalus spoke about the current funding and future funding programs provided through the Bucks County Conservation District. Additional funding may be offered through the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Program, DCNR Conservation Partnership Program, Watershed Restoration Protection Program, water monitoring programs, DEP Environmental Education Grants and Growing Greener Program. Funding will be available starting in February or March of this year, depending on the program.

Mr. Keyes thanked Ms. Rogalus for the funding and support that occurred about ten years ago at the Strawberry Hill property. It was a huge success thanks to the BCCD.

Mr. Getty inquired if anyone knew anything about a deer management sign that is posted in Carversville. No one seemed to know who posted the sign and that it was not done by the township. Mr. Getty offered to inquire a little further on the matter.

Chair Allen thanked the watershed attendees for offering their time and input to the meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator
Solebury Township