

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES OF MARCH 9TH, 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)

Guest Attending: Robert McEwan

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 9th, 2021

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Jim Mansfield, the meeting minutes for February 9th, 2021 were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Mansfield stated that the Audubon Society is currently drafting a letter concerning the banning of plastic bags within the community.

Pennsylvania has been doing a study on the plastic that has been discovered in the drinking water, clothing, ground water, etc.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Allen announced that the Bucks County Audubon Society will have an in-person Earth Day Festival on April 10, 2021 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tables are available to community and environmental groups free of charge. Chair Allen was looking for any ideas or suggestions on how the EAC might participate. The suggestion was made to combine Solebury Township information with another local township EAC with one table. Mr. Mansfield, Chair Allen, Mr. Francis and Mr. Kubiak (possibly) volunteered to spend some time at the table. Ms. Cheever volunteered to do a handout on plastics for the table. Mr. Kubiak volunteered to do a handout on sealcoat for the table. Chair Allen suggested that the volunteers meet soon to decide what they would like to do for the table.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ready for 100 (Jim Mansfield)

Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Francis presented to EAC the final draft of a presentation to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting entitled, “Energy Transition Plan” (copy attached). The following points were addressed:

- Achieve carbon free ELECTRICITY by 2035
- Achieve carbon free ENERGY by 2050
- Sierra Club as a nationwide effort to achieve carbon neutral energy and reduce Green House Gasses (GHG)
- Cut Waste – Build and Buy Efficient
- Reduce Pollution – Clean Electricity Supply
- Emphasize Sustainability
- Energy efficiency in buildings and operations
- Community Outreach
- Two Part Goals – Municipal and Community
- Municipal Findings – Township has completed an energy audit for the Township
- Community Findings – Township has completed an energy audit for residents
- GHG Reduction Goals for the community – Lead by example, reduce roadblocks, regulatory review, public education and apply for grants
- Leading by example – Municipality will implement energy efficiency measures and shift its energy sources to renewable energy as expeditiously as possible
- Gold/platinum work for sustainability
- Grants to fund an electric vehicle charging station
- Reducing Roadblocks – Municipality will consider implementing changes to reduce roadblocks for climate-positive investments and encourage adoption of energy transition programs and investments by residents, institutions and businesses
- Regulatory Review – Municipality will undertake changes to its planning, zoning code, road system, and other aspects of municipal governance that impact energy usage throughout the community
- Public Education – Municipality will provide information and encouragement to all stakeholders in the community to use energy efficiently and transition to the use of renewable energy

- Apply for Grants whenever possible – Municipal governments can seek grants from nonprofits or state/federal programs that subsidize some aspect of projects for energy transition
- Costs for Township staff time, consultants, studies, solar installation, facilities upgrades, police fleet, EV stations and outreach materials
- Who's involved in the community? People, businesses and associations that can help in this process
- Added incentives for the residents of the community

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Bill Birnes, it was unanimously recommended for Jim Mansfield to present to the Solebury Township Board of Supervisors the presentation entitled “Energy Transition Plan” at the next available Supervisors’ meeting.

Cold-Tar-Based Sealcoat (Joe Kubiak)

Mr. Kubiak met with the Township Manager, Dennis Carney, and discussed the banning of the cold-tar-sealcoat within the Township and to have the driveway coater contractors register with the Township.

Liaison Francis suggested that Mr. Kubiak attend the next supervisors’ meeting to explain the need to ban the cold-tar-based sealcoat and what can be done to enforce it within the township. Mr. Kubiak will also present to the supervisors a draft letter to be sent to the homeowner associations that could be circulated to residents.

It was noted that the Aquetong Watershed would send a letter of support on this issue.

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Christy Cheever, it was unanimously recommended that Joe Kubiak forward his final draft letter regarding cold-tar-based sealcoat onto the supervisors for approval to be distributed to the Solebury Township Homeowners Associations.

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

Ms. Blaythorne stated that the New Hope Solebury Quarry is back on the market with a future auction to be determined at a later date.

It was noted that April 17th will be the Aquetong Watershed’s Annual Cleanup.

The EAC Facebook account for Bird Town is up and running. Ms. Blaythorne has been posting various items. Ms. Blaythorne stated that she received a few suggestions for the development of the Route 202 property. One suggestion was a community swimming pool.

Adopt-A-Highway/Cleanup Park (Christy Cheever)

Vice Chair Cheever stated that it looks like EAC will be able to adopt the portion of roadway that has been previously mentioned on Sagan Road and part of Phillips Mill Road. She has spoken to Dudley Rice, Park & Recreation Director for Solebury Township, concerning the cleanup of Laurel Park which is behind the township building. There was a brief discussion of what the Adopt-A-Highway sign would say and where it should be placed to recognize EAC's efforts for the cleanup of the highway. It was suggested to place the sign on another street sign, if possible, to cut down on placing another individual sign along that road. Vice Chair Cheever suggested having the cleanup on Sunday, April 25th, rain or shine, for EAC members. PennDOT will provide the vests, gloves and trash bags for the event. The members agreed to do the cleanup once every year.

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated that he participated with the drone study one or two nights and found it to be a very fascinating technology. Once the numbers are calculated, Chair Allen will be able to report back to the committee with more detailed drone results.

Best Future for the Township Purchased 202 Property

The following suggestions were made:

- Farmers Market
- Flea Market
- Outdoor Amphitheater
- Food Trucks gathering on the weekends
- Skateboard Park
- Community Gardens

New Hope Solebury Quarry (Hope Blaythorne)

Ms. Blaythorne reported on this topic previously under Wild Area Stewardship/Tree City/Bird Town.

Charging Stations (Eric Allen)

There was a brief discussion on future charging stations and the banning of gas stations.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator
Solebury Township