

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF JUNE 9TH, 2020

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

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 12th, 2020

Upon a Motion by Barry Fetterolf, seconded by Doug Shaw, the meeting minutes for May 12th, 2020 were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Tree City

Ms. Blaythorne stated the first step for the township to be a “tree city” is to create a “tree committee/board” that would involve people within the community who have a strong interest in being responsible for the care of trees in Solebury Township. Arbor Day Foundation requires a “tree board” to meet a few times per year and to draft a public tree care ordinance.

Ms. Blaythorne suggested reaching out to the Community Forestry Program that provides \$2 per capita for funding to communities. Ms. Blaythorne will look into this funding to see if the Township’s tree plantings that take place throughout the Township would be covered under this program.

Once the “tree city” committee is created, it is suggested to have an Arbor Day observance and proclamation and, at that time, designate the community as Tree City USA.

Mr. Francis asked what would be the purpose or benefit of being a “tree city”?

Ms. Blaythorne felt being a “tree city” would be another way to reach out to residents to become more educated on how to care for trees and create more public awareness.

It was noted that the next step would be for Mr. Francis to have a discussion with other supervisors to decide how beneficial a Tree City committee would be to Solebury Township.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ready for 100 (Jim Mansfield)

Mr. Mansfield stated that the Sierra Club announced that 100 million people in the United States live in a city, county or state committed to the Ready for 100 Program.

It was noted that after the supervisors have reviewed the proposed resolution, EAC will help in determining what the next step will be for the Township.

Mr. Mansfield stated he will continue to attend Zoom meetings for new ideas and suggestions and report back to EAC for discussion.

Rules & Regulations (Doug Shaw)

Mr. Shaw distributed his draft presentation to EAC and asked for any comments pertaining to sustainability.

Mr. Francis stated that some of the sustainability objectives are covered in the Solebury Township Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Shaw stated his next step would be to reach out to each supervisor, committee chairs and township administration for comments on the topic.

Mr. Fetterolf asked Mr. Francis if the township was looking into replacing the police cars with Hybrid cars?

Mr. Francis said the plan is to replace the police cars with Hybrids and eventually natural gas for the maintenance vehicles.

Wild Area Stewardship (Hope Blaythorne)

Ms. Blaythorne stated that there was not much to report at this time other than currently updating the water monitoring at Primrose Creek Watershed. The focus is currently on Solebury Township possibly becoming a “tree city”.

Invasives (Doug Shaw)

Ms. Terranova received the brown tree band roll and pins from Karoline Anderson with the Department of Agriculture. EAC needs to decide how they would like to distribute the supplies to residents and should include an instruction sheet for placing the materials on the resident’s trees.

Plastics, Regulation and Recycling (Christy Cheever)

Nothing to report at this time.

Ms. Cheever sent an email out to EAC members from the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Legislation saying that some states have shifted some of the responsibility of recycling to the companies that sell their products in plastic to pay for recycling or disposal in order to shift some of the burden from the recycling companies. She will continue to research this and report back to EAC with any comments.

Mr. Mansfield stated that the Pennsylvania prohibition outlawing the bag bans is expected to continue another two years before any chance for local bag regulations to be reenacted.

Environmental Restoration

It was decided to remove this topic from the agenda

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

It was noted that this topic will be on the Board of Supervisors’ June 16th agenda for discussion, and Nate Spence (Wildlife Technician, USDA) will be doing a presentation and update on behalf of the program.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator
Solebury Township