

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

MINUTES OF JULY 14TH, 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)

AUDIENCE: Joe Kubiak (resident of Solebury Township)

I. OPENING OF MEETING

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 9th, 2020

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Jim Mansfield, the meeting minutes for June 9th, 2020 were approved with corrections.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kubiak, a resident of the Fieldstone Development for sixteen years, spoke about Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat and the potential concerns for human health and aquatic life. He suggested that Solebury Township prohibit the application of coal-tar-based sealcoat (the black liquid) on asphalt pavements; or, if necessary, ban its use with a carve out for township roads.

Recent studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Baylor University have identified that sealcoat is a source of human carcinogens that cause cancer and are toxic to aquatic life. The dust created from sealcoat, mostly as a result from friction from vehicle tires, are blown by the wind, tracked indoors on the soles of shoes, inhaled, absorbed by the skin, and are washed away by rain to storm drains and streams. This movement of particles and the resulting exposure is how sealcoating of asphalt becomes a major health hazard in the environment. Maine, Minnesota and Washington and several major U.S. cities have recently banned sealcoat use.

Mr. Kubiak provided two brochures to the committee from the USGS containing numerous facts and concerns about sealcoating. Mr. Kubiak is proposing that the Township review and look at the affects of using sealcoating. It was suggested that sealcoating does not appear to last very long once it is applied to the residential driveways and appears to be more for cosmetics.

Chair Allen suggested this may be something EAC may want to pursue.

Liaison Francis suggested he would talk to the Township Manager, Dennis Carney, concerning sealcoating being used on the roads within the Township.

Chair Allen asked Mr. Fetterolf to contact the contractor that Mr. Kubiak spoke of to obtain further information on this matter.

Ms. Cheever suggested we may need to place this topic in the long term, sustainability plan.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ready for 100 (Jim Mansfield)

Mr. Mansfield gave a brief update on the progress of the program. A group of municipalities in Chester County have organized a 3-month course designed to gather the data for and assemble – a draft Energy Transition Plan which conforms to “Ready for 100” Guidelines. The course will be facilitated by Habitus, Inc., a company specializing in training, negotiation and facilitation for businesses and non-profits. A number of energy specialists with many years of experience will provide information on the options available for communities related to efficiency, management, procurement, production and storage. The course is primarily funded by a grant; \$50 is the only cost for each participating community. The course will begin in early August.

The next step would be to draft a resolution for a municipality plan as long as the Township is interested about participating. The Municipal Participation Form needs to be filled out and turned in no later than July 24th to show that the Township is serious about participating in the course. Also, the Utility Data Release Form and the Municipal Energy Use Form need to be completed and turned in by July 24th. Solebury Township would need at least two representatives committed to be actively involved in the course and the creation of its deliverable, a draft Energy Transition Plan for the Township.

The goal of participating in this program is to define an energy baseline on which the plan for future energy efficiency can be built.

Liaison Francis said he would discuss the Township's involvement with the other supervisors.

Rules & Regulations (Doug Shaw)

Mr. Shaw gave a brief update on his findings on rules and regulations affecting sustainability within the Township. He shared a handout entitled, "Update on Township's Rules & Regulations Supporting Sustainability Objectives", dated July, 2020. Mr. Shaw and Chair Allen have interviewed approximately ten people concerning sustainability. The purpose of the interviews was to determine whether any:

- Definitive set of sustainability goals or objectives exist for the Township
- Additional Township rules or regulations that don't support sustainability
- Additional documents identifying rules and regulations that should be reviewed

Through the interviews, the following topics were noted:

- Comprehensive sustainability assessment currently underway by Planning Commission
- More interest in updating regulations to keep up with evolving technology than identifying additional regulations that stymie sustainability
- Concern over water sustainability, including the need for water study to develop fact base
- Desire for measurement/tracking and providing incentives for sustainability
- Concern over ability to enforce regulations, in general
- Multiple additional sustainability concerns identified

In conclusion, Mr. Shaw will reach out to the Zoning Hearing Board Chair, Steven Segal, the Township Manager, Dennis Carney and the Zoning Officer, Tracy Tackett to complete his interview process. Next step would be to focus on the Design Guidelines and may reach out to the HARB Chair, Larry Peseski, for further information, if needed.

Wild Area Stewardship/Tree City (Hope Blaythorne)

Ms. Blaythorne stated that the pump at the quarry stopped pumping on July 4th and was not restored until July 8th. The Primrose Creek Watershed Association is asking the Township what can be done to make sure the quarry has a quicker response time. Water testing continues with the water monitors but all other activities have been cancelled. The August board meeting will be via Zoom.

Ms. Blaythorne also added that the Aquetong Watershed Association has had numerous scheduled events canceled due to the current health crisis. The committee continues to monitor Solebury Township's plans for the Route 202 Corridor including the latest development proposal and provide input/comment accordingly. AWA continues to monitor Aquetong Creek restoration at Aquetong Spring Park and two of the board members remain in the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee for Solebury Township. The AWA awarded Robert Murphy, a New Hope Solebury High School graduating senior, the Malcolm P. Crooks Scholarship for 2020.

Ms. Blaythorne stated that she would look further into the information provided about creating a Tree City Board.

Invasives (Doug Shaw)

In using the tape on the tree trunks to trap the Spotted Lantern Fly, it was noted that it was very messy to work with and not considered to be the best solution.

Plastics, Regulation and Recycling (Christy Cheever)

Ms. Cheever stated there was nothing to report on plastics at this time.

Ms. Cheever noted under recycling that she had mentioned at the previous meeting about the extended producer responsibility legislation. There is a major public education component concerning the generation of some plastics that are not recyclable. There is the idea of having major producers of plastics to be responsible for the cost of either recycling the plastic or disposing of the plastic that is not recyclable.

Liaison Francis suggested keeping a close watch on this proposed process and Ms. Cheever to keep EAC updated.

Chair Allen suggested to reach out to Waste Management to reschedule the canceled tour that was offered last April.

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

There was a brief discussion concerning an email from Nate Spence (USDA) proposing to eliminate 10% to 12% of the deer in the Township. Chair Allen would like to reach out to the Game Commission and legislators to look at other possible options. It was noted that the cost of processing (butchering) any deer was not included in the proposal and was previously a major cost in the program in 2017.

Liaison Francis stated that he does not support the current proposal and there doesn't seem to be an alternative option.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator
Solebury Township