

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 11th, 2020

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

ABSENT: Barry Fetterolf and William Birnes

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 14th, 2020

Upon a Motion by Eric Allen, seconded by Jim Mansfield, the meeting minutes for July 14th, 2020 were approved with corrections.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Cheever suggested reading a book entitle, “Nature’s Best Hope” that talks about sustainability and natural habitats.

Chair Allen announced that Doylestown Township will be holding an EAC Summit that will be held virtually on October 7th.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shaw mentioned when he was interviewing people on the rules and regulations with sustainability, some people mentioned ground water management. At the Board of Supervisors’ meeting in December,2019, it was noted that the supervisors wanted to update a 2002 Uhl Associates Groundwater Management study. The updated document has been updated and is currently on the website.

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. Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Francis have signed up and began attending the program and finding it well organized, very informative and providing much guidance for the future. Approximately 70 people from 28 communities are in attendance.

Liaison Francis mentioned that the Township hopes to have a draft document by the end of November, 2020 and that there will be a number of interviews on what people feel should be the Township’s top priorities.

Rules & Regulations (Doug Shaw)

Mr. Shaw shared his updated handout entitled, “Update on Township’s Rules & Regulations for Sustainability”, dated August, 2020. The following three recommendations are being proposed:

- Update Design Guidelines to allow for appropriate replacement windows and specific types of solar shingles
- Replace paper copies and distribution with digital copies and distribution for practices that have required significant generation of paper
- Encourage the updating of regulations to keep pace with evolving technologies through initiatives such as the Planning Commission’s more comprehensive review.

The third bullet is considered to be a broader recommendation in that the comprehensive plan needs to be maintained to continue with updating the technologies in the future.

It was felt that some resistance to sustainability can be found in the historic design guidelines, particularly with the replacement of windows. HARB Chair, Larry Peseski, stated that the committee is in the process of revising the design guidelines to incorporate some maintenance guidelines into the document. It was recommended that most of the current guidelines language for replacement windows be preserved with a few minor changes.

It was noted that the Comprehensive Plan does support the use and installation of solar shingles and consider changing the design guidelines to reflect that. While the larger traditional solar panels are inconsistent with the preservation of the character of historic buildings, technology has evolved to the point of having several solar shingles available

on the market. Not all available solar shingles approximate the look of historic roofs but some do create a uniform appearance that would give the look of slate, which is a historically appropriate roofing material. Additional options will become available in time that will most likely give the look for an appropriate historical roofing material. Another recommendation is to decrease the usage of paper for application submissions to committees and to send everything electronic. Required submission for a HARB application was 17 complete copies and has now been reduced to five complete copies for submission. It was also noted to explore the distribution of notices of pending applications and hearings being sent electronically to residents rather than using the postal service.

It was suggested to have the Board of Supervisors and committees encourage as little use of paper as possible and rely more on digital distribution.

Chair Allen suggested to recommend forwarding the three recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Shaw will create the draft of the recommendation and forward to Chair Allen. The draft will include the following:

1. Requiring the submission of HARB applications by a single scanned or digital file rather than the five paper copies (just reduced from 17 copies), with exception of any applications including large-scale drawings.
2. Exploring the distribution of notices of pending applications and hearings (under Ordinance No. 07-5) electronically rather than through the postal system.
3. Having the Board of Supervisors and its committees encourage as little use of paper as possible by relying more on digital distribution of materials.

Wild Area Stewardship/Tree City (Hope Blaythorne)

Ms. Blaythorne stated that the quarry property is currently up for sale. The Primrose Creek Watershed Association is hosting a virtual Town Hall on Thursday, August 13th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss with the public the selling of the property and to address the logistics of the quarry. The auction date will be September 9, 2020. Primrose Creek will also present the water monitoring data from the past year to show when the pumps have stopped and the impacts. There will be a preview of the property on August 19, 2020.

Invasives (Doug Shaw)

This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Plastics, Regulation and Recycling (Christy Cheever)

Chair Allen recommended that everyone watch the John Ford movie on plastics that is on the Discovery Channel and how only 2% of plastics are used for recycling. He felt it was very informative.

Liaison Francis recommended for the committee members to reach out to State Representative Wendy Thomas to voice concerns on how recyclables are being handled in the State of Pennsylvania.

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

At the July 21st Board of Supervisors meeting, two presentations were given regarding deer management.

The first speaker was Jay Kelly, Ph.D. of Environmental Science, who is a teacher at the Raritan Valley Community College. He presented how to do an accurate census as opposed to the way we are doing the sampling with the USDA, that would be done with a drone with infrared sensors. This is helpful to getting an accurate count and helps in dealing with the magnitude of the problem. Dr. Kelly provided a few organizations for Chair Allen to contact for further information regarding deer management. One contact was Duke Farm, an environmental park, and the second contact was White Buffalo, based in Connecticut that do mitigation of mammals, specifically deer.

The second speaker was Nate Spence, USDA Administrator, provided additional recommendations in what the USDA would do and felt to provide extremely high costs.

To have a noticeable impact, the Township would need to kill approximately 3,750 deer per year. It is felt that education to residents and continued education to keep people informed of the deer management situation.

Cold-Tar-Based Sealcoat (Barry Fetterolf)

Barry was absent from the meeting for comment

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator
Solebury Township

DRAFT