

Environmental Advisory Council

October 12, 2021– 7:00 PM

ZOOM Videoconference

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Eric Allen called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.
 - b. The following persons were in attendance: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Hope Blaythorne, Joe Kubiak, Jim Mansfield, William J. Birnes, John Francis (Board Liaison), Robert McEwan (Board Supervisor) and Debra McFadden (Administrator). Absent: Barry Fetterolf.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the September 14, 2021 minutes with amendments as stated. Joe Kubiak seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- III. Announcements
 - a. There were no new announcements.
- IV. New Business
 - a. Eric Allen reported that the only new business was the EAC 2022 meeting dates. Eric Allen suggested to make the first Tuesday, December 6, 2022 the meeting date instead of the scheduled second Tuesday, December 13, 2022.
- V. Discussion Items
 - a. Ready for 100 Clean Energy Initiative
 - i. Jim Mansfield said that the Clean Energy Planning Group is holding their second session of the fall seminar series October 13, 2021 at 12 pm. Previous seminar involved sharing energy plans & incentives. Tomorrow’s session will hear from three municipalities on their transition plans and the COP26 conference in Glasgow, Scotland.
 - ii. John Francis attended the Wednesday, October 6, 2021 meeting of the Ready for 100 Bucks County. John Francis commented that there is very strong local support and an offer was made to make a presentation on the West Rockhill solar installation.

b. PECO Energy Assessment Program

- i. Jim Mansfield said he has received no feedback on the article from the Herald regarding PECO audits – still waiting. Jim Mansfield noted that PECO's half off offer expires Friday, October 15, 2021 which will make the audits less attractive. Jim Mansfield further said it makes sense to form a broader working group for the Ready for 100 incentive under the auspices of the EAC and considered forming a working Group for Ready for 100 Clean Energy.

c. Budget Priorities

- i. John Francis reiterated his prior interest in solar energy and installation at the Township. He reported that this was not supported due to budget constraints despite the immediate payback (once on line) of lower energy costs and ROI of approximately 11 years based on West Rockhill project. John Francis stated a possible more favorable reception if solid financial details could be demonstrated. He further added the possibility that it would not be viewed as a budget item. Lacking the financial information, the Planning Commission demonstrated little support for a full discussion on the estimated \$500K investment. Robert McEwan commented that as in the case of the Deer Program the EAC can influence budgetary items but it needs a continuous promoting. He added the EAC should not wait as the Deer Program took a year. John Francis added the need for a sound financial proposal and introduced the possibility of 3rd party financing. John Francis said there are currently two (disparate) bids for solar on Township buildings that would supply 85 – 90% of energy needs. He further noted items to be ironed out such as credits for solar, tax benefits and 3rd party financing. Eric Allen asked what needs to be done to put this forward. William Birnes sighted the example of Wells Fargo providing municipal financing and its positive response. Jim Mansfield offered to go back and provide the Audubon Project details. In response to Eric Allen's question of taking the lead on this John Francis, Jim Mansfield and Joe Kubiak will report back.

d. Wild Area Stewardship / Tree City / Birdtown

- i. Hope Blaythorne provided a watershed update. The Aquetong Spring Annual Meeting will be held October 14, 2021 anyone wanting to attend to let her know and she will forward the information. Hope Blaythorne added that she is

working with Francis of the Primrose Creek Watershed to define what the water monitors might look like throughout the Township. They are hoping to aggregate the data. Eric Allen asked if there was any feedback on water quality deterioration. Hope Blaythorne replied that they are testing quantity (velocity) not quality.

- ii. Hope Blaythorne mentioned the contact to Tree Town was a dead end- She said that we may not be an Arbor Day Town. John Francis confirmed that the Township is an Arbor Day Town. Debra McFadden will look into and provide contact information.
 - iii. Hope Blaythorne said Birdtown initiatives are driven at the municipal, school district and community engagement level. Also, Hope Blaythorne noted there is no “Birdtown” designation on the Township website. John Francis said that Jim Mansfield and Michele Blood are working on website additions and suggested that Hope Blaythorne send a text or an email.
- e. Adopt A Highway / Cleanup Park
- i. Eric Allen proposed to temporarily take this discussion item off the agenda and Christy Cheever suggested substituting with the Bag Drive and Plastic Bag Incentive.
- f. Deer Management
- i. Eric Allen noted that Nate Spence, the USDA Liaison, reported that the Red Tag numbers are YTD 2021 179 vs 2019 164 vs 2020 265. Eric noted that this a marked improvement.
 - ii. Eric Allen reported that the Deer Summit will be held at the Doylestown EAC on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. Jay Kelly will make a presentation about the need for deer control.
 - iii. Eric Allen asked John Francis and Robert McEwan about the budget line item for deer culling. John Francis responded with 355K which includes culling, processing and vehicle.
 - iv. Jim Mansfield mentioned Princeton’s Deer Program and the services of White Buffalo.

- g. Coal-Tar Based Sealcoat
 - i. Joe Kubiak reported not much activity and noted that his contact, Mandy Steel, involved with coal-tar based sealcoat in Western Pennsylvania will not be presenting to the Board of Supervisors until sometime in 2022.
- h. EAC Logo
 - i. Christy Cheever noted the change of flipping the logo to Environmental Advisory Council of Solebury to highlight the EAC name. Christy Cheever sent a draft proposal to the Board of Supervisors for EAC review. Christy Cheever added that the logo is sufficiently distinct but color scheme related. Eric Allen stated it is appropriate to vote on the EAC logo after the EAC reviews it and the vote will take place at the next EAC meeting.
- i. Re-useable Bag Drive
 - i. Christy Cheever reported no significant updates. She reported that the letter to businesses is ready to go and it was suggested at this time no mention of any ordinances or moratorium and that it is best to highlight the volunteer aspect of this Drive. Christy Cheever indicated a follow up of the mailings with emails and thanked Robert McEwan for the great information that he provided.
- j. EAC Website / Social Media
 - i. Jim Mansfield commented that Joe Kubiak suggested adding Sealcoat to the left side of the web page with a link to the article. Jim Mansfield suggested that the website be reviewed every few months and as subjects mature they should be migrated from the article section to a more permanent location. Eric Allen asked each member to look at the EAC page for the next meeting. Hope Blaythorne suggested that the website can be viewed via the shared screen in a Zoom meeting.

VI. Public Comment

- a. No Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

- a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion at 8:13 pm to adjourn the October 12, 2021 meeting. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**

Respectively submitted,

Debra McFadden