

Environmental Advisory Council

November 9, 2021– 7:00 PM

ZOOM Videoconference

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Eric Allen called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
 - b. The following persons were in attendance: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Hope Blaythorne, Joe Kubiak, Jim Mansfield, William J. Birnes, Barry Fetterolf, John Francis (Board Liaison), Robert McEwan (Board Supervisor) and Debra McFadden (Administrator).
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the October 12, 2021 minutes. William Birnes seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- III. Announcements
 - a. There were no new announcements.
- IV. New Business
 - a. There was no new business.
- V. Discussion Items
 - a. Ready for 100 Clean Energy Initiative
 - i. Jim Mansfield reported that the Bucks County Ready for 100 Zoom met in November. Jim Baldassarre of Doylestown Township’s Environmental Advisory Council and the chairperson of RF 100 Bucks talked about the Model Alternative Energy Ordinance which is a model for all the townships and boroughs in the county. Topics included mandating the orientation of new buildings for maximum sunlight, how to move beyond municipalities and appeal to our citizens to get interested in climate change. Jim Mansfield and Jim Baldassarre volunteered to contact key environmental teachers at the respective high schools. Doylestown sent a ROI analysis on the solar project that was installed at West Rockhill as a model for municipalities. Jim Mansfield will forward copies once received.

- ii. Jim Mansfield reported that the Clean Energy Planning Group meeting continues tomorrow and the question to be discussed are what methods would engage and encourage a community plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - iii. Jim Mansfield mentioned that the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RIGGI) had an excellent presentation on line and could possibly become law by January 1, 2022.
- b. PECO Energy Assessment Program
 - i. Jim Mansfield had nothing to report since the discounts expired.
- c. Wild Area Stewardship / Tree City / Birdtown
 - i. Hope Blaythorne reported Primrose Creek suggested to update water monitoring and Hope commented that it was not a good time to attempt it so it is on hold.
 - ii. Hope Blaythorne said at the Birdtown Summit, an ad hoc group was formed for sharing ideas. Hope Blaythorne further added to share ideas such as connecting high school campuses, adopt a bird program, and birdbox installations. Additionally, Hope Blaythorne reported that the Bucks County Audubon Society is not supporting Birdtown.
- d. Deer Management
 - i. Eric Allen reported that Solebury approved funds for the Deer Management Program which has a goal of culling 1,000 deer.
 - ii. Eric Allen said that the USDA will be spending 25 nights between February and April 2022 for the culling. The resultant deer will be shipped to and processed in Philadelphia and distributed to food banks. Eric Allen commented that deer are the greatest ecological threat and is looking to reduce from 76 to around 35 per square mile.
 - iii. John Francis congratulated Eric Allen on the Deer Management Program.
 - iv. Hope Blaythorne expressed the desire to measure the success and measure the impact of the program such as collisions, effect on the habitat, etc.
 - v. Eric reported that a Deer Summit was held on October 20, 2021. It was sparsely attended by other EACs. Eric Allen will chair the “super committee”. He further commented that if surrounding areas do not participate in deer management, Solebury’s efforts will be for naught and he called for more public awareness.
 - vi. John D’Andrea entered Public Comment section inquiring about deer selection

Eric Allen responded there will be no difference in taking bucks versus doe.

e. Coal-Tar Based Sealcoat

- i. Joe Kubiak thanked Jim Mansfield and Michele Blood for their work on the Township website. The coal tar articles that were in the Intelligencer and Bucks County Courier Times have been uploaded to the site.

f. EAC Logo

- i. Christy Cheever asked the members how to proceed on the draft letter to the Board regarding the logo design, it was decided to move forward.

g. Re-useable Bag Drive

- i. Christy Cheever noted that a letter was sent to non-restaurant businesses to consider drawing down inventories of plastic bag and to consider non-plastic options. Also, looking to sending letters to individual vendors at Rice's Market. Eric Allen asked if there was any legislative update. John Francis said that the Township is looking forward to its own ordinance. Eric Allen suggested that on behalf of the EAC that Christy Cheever send a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors who will be addressing it at their December 2, 2021 meeting.

h. EAC Website / Social Media

- i. Jim Mansfield shared the screen and navigated the updated EAC section of the Solebury Township website located by clicking the Sustainability tab in the middle of the home page. Jim Mansfield directed everyone to the addition of the seal coat information.
- ii. Hope Blaythorne expressed an interest in adding BirdTown to the website and will get back after reviewing other township's websites.
- iii. Jim Mansfield noted that the recycling section has minimal amount of information and would like to see more added.

VI. Public Comment

John D'Andrea shared some statistics affecting the bird population.

600K – 1M birds lost annually to wind turbines

2M birds are lost to the high-power distribution lines

2 Billion birds are lost to cats in the United States alone

John D'Andrea suggested getting information out on bleaching birdboxes.

- a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion at 8:01 pm to adjourn the November 9, 2021 meeting. Jim Mansfield seconded motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

Respectively submitted,

Debra McFadden