

Environmental Advisory Committee

May 10, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

**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 (Member), Jim Mansfield (Member), Phil Getty (Member), C.L. Lindsay III (Member) Shannon Pendleton (Associate Member), Timothy Marsh (Associate Member), John Francis (Board Liaison), Mark Freed (Township Solicitor) Debra McFadden (Administration) and John DeAndrea (Planning Commission Member). Barry Fetterolf (Member) was not in attendance.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
  - a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the April 12, minutes with correction. The motion was seconded by Phil Getty. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**
- III. Announcements
  - a. Eric Allen introduced and welcomed a new associate member to the EAC, Timothy Marsh.
- IV. New Business
  - a. Plastic Bag Ordinance

Mark Freed commented on plastic bag legislation and noted that establishments will not be able give away reusable bags and they will have to be for sale. Mark Freed added his comments on the plastic bag ban after his review on the proposed legislation including the sales of reusable bags.

**MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the legislation language to be sent to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. The motion was seconded by Jim Mansfield. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**
  - b. Burning Regulation

Mark Freed led the discussion on the proposed legislation and noted that it will prohibit yard waste and household burning as these have recycling options already in place. Generally, all burning is prohibited unless noted as a specific exemption for example,

agricultural burning.

**MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the burning regulations as proposed with revision. The motion was seconded by Phil Getty. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**

c. Lighting Ordinance

The topic of lighting was discussed with Mark Freed and the EAC. It was agreed that more discussion was needed before moving forward with any action. C.L. Lindsay III will continue his effort to research this topic.

d. Eric Allen asked Mark Freed about vehicle idling and if it can be regulated

at the local level. John Francis added that this would first need Board of Supervisor's approval if the EAC would like Mark Freed to pursue.

e. A brief discussion regarding the Devil's Tea Table Alliance and the presentation to the Board of Supervisors in May. Phil Getty to report back on this topic.

V. Discussion Items

a. Ready for 100 Clean Energy Initiative

i. Jim Mansfield reported that after 2 years the Clean Energy Group will end their teaching sessions in June. Jim Mansfield and John Francis have been discussing plans on where to go from here.

ii. Jim Mansfield reported that the PA Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative passed in April when the regulation was published in the State Legislative Bulletin. Unless it is stopped by lawsuits, power plants will have to account for their CO2 emissions in July and there will be the opportunity to purchase carbon emissions credits in September. Jim Mansfield reported that over \$250 million to be put toward green items.

b. Wild Area Stewardship / Bird Town

i. Hope Blaythorne suggested an EAC Editorial Calendar due to all of the upcoming environmental events. C. L. Lindsay III will create the calendar in Google Drive for the EAC.

ii. Hope Blaythorne suggested an EAC recognition program utilizing the signs form Birdtown for outstanding environmental activities from residents such as Ed Laden who planted 200 trees on his property.

- iii. Hope Blaythorne reported that Arbor Day was April 29, 2022 and that the Tree Town certification for Solebury Township was accepted and approved and thanked John Francis for his efforts.
- iv. Hope Blaythorne reported that Heidi shared an app which will allow you to track volunteer hours.
- v. Hope Blaythorne reported that the drone footage of the quarry showed water rising and that DEP emergency funding is approved for the inlet and outlet design which should be completed by Labor Day.
- vi. Hope Blaythorne mentioned Aquetong Creek Association's Clean Up Day and Shannon Pendleton reported that volunteers collected an enormous amount of trash from various roadside and creek locations with help from some high school volunteers.
- vii. Hope Blaythorne to speak to Jade Greene about the water testing and seeking additional funding. Shannon Pendleton commented that the macroinvertebrates survey on the upper and lower branches of the creek was just completed and the results were better than last year. Shannon Pendleton mentioned collaboration with Primrose Creek on the monitoring efforts and a strategic planning meeting that was held.

c. Deer Management

- i. Eric Allen reported that the spring harvest is complete and was a very successful program: 671 deer taken in the management program, it was less than the targeted 1,000 deer but due to adverse weather and number of days hunted it worked out financially favorable for the Township. The numbers represent 67% of the goal but with only 44% spent. There were 27,000 lbs. of venison donated to local food banks, Hunter's for the Harvest donated processing and about \$30,000 in rebates for the program which brought the cost of the program down even further. The numbers represent a 30% reduction in the size of the herd. Eric Allen commented that this is a substantial step forward for the program and he was very pleased with the results.
- ii. Eric Allen reported that the Red Tag program is currently in place with hunting on agricultural properties. Eric Allen reported that there is money left over for next year's budget for the program and that deer management is now in place

year- round with the Deer Management Program from January through April, the Red Tag Program in the summer and hunting in the fall.

d. Bag Drive and Plastic Bag Incentive

- i. Christy Cheever led a brief discussion on the Plastic Bag Ordinance and how once approved to outreach to the businesses such as Giant and to the public.

e. Webpage Update / Social Media

- i. Jim Mansfield reported that there was a change to the Township website link to PA Power Switch, [papowerswitch.com](http://papowerswitch.com)

VI. Public Comment

No Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

- a. Eric Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.