

Environmental Advisory Committee

July 12, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Eric Allen called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.
 - b. The following persons were in attendance: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Phil Getty (Member), C.L. Lindsay III (Member) Shannon Pendleton (Associate Member), Timothy Marsh (Associate Member), John Francis (Board Liaison), Debra McFadden (Administration) and Robert McEwan (Board Member). Hope Blaythorne (Member), Barry Fetterolf (Member), and Jim Mansfield (Member) were not in attendance.
- II. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the June 14, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by C.L. Lindsay III. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**
- III. Announcements

Eric Allen made two announcements:

Honey Hollow Watershed Revisited will be held on Friday, July 22, 2022 through Sunday, July 24,2022.

The Doylestown EAC will be honoring David Benner with naming a small portion of Central Park after him on Friday, July 22, 2022 at 1:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served and a response is requested by July 20 2022.
- IV. Discussion Items
 - a. Ready for 100 Clean Energy Initiative
 - i. John Francis said that there is nothing to report at this time since Jim Mansfield was not present.
 - b. Wild Area Stewardship / Bird Town
 - i. Eric Allen summarized the meeting that he had with Hope Blaythorne and Jim Mansfield. The updated Abor Day signage has been received and is at the township building. Exploring Fall Tree Planting Opportunities in the Township including Honey Hollow and Bucks County Audubon Society.

- ii. Hope Blaythorne supported the Bird Town booth at the Doylestown Designed for Nature Garden Tour in June. The new Bird Town signs are in production and 150 signs have been ordered. Each Bird Town will receive 2 signs free of charge. Additional signs can be purchased for \$55.
- c. Deer Management
 - i. Eric Allen said nothing to report at this time.
- d. Bag Drive and Plastic Bag Incentive
 - i. Christy Cheever reported that the Plastic Bag Ordinance passed at the Board of Supervisors meeting mid-June and is now going through the implementation process. Christy Cheever sent a draft letter for the businesses with relevant dates to Eric Allen and John Francis for their review. John Francis and Mark Freed agreed that a link to the website and a physical copy of the ordinance should be posted. John Francis stated that a copy of the ordinance should accompany the letter to the businesses with a summary of the ordinance in the letter. It was agreed that the letter should be signed by the Township Manager, Christopher Garges, Mark Baum Baicker and Christy Cheever. Christy Cheever will send the letter to both Mark Freed and John Francis. The members thanked Christy Cheever for all of the work she contributed to the Plastic Bag Ordinance.
- e. Webpage Update / Social Media
 - i. Timothy Marsh reported that he met with Shannon Pendleton and Jim Mansfield to discuss the Ready for 100 Clean Energy website that Jim Wiley presented at the June meeting. Jim Mansfield's overview was that Solebury's carbon footprint is already very low with less than 1% for the township buildings. Timothy Marsh's recommendation is to make public on the website and to other EAC's, the good work that Solebury has done that contribute to a greener environment. The second recommendation is that we should engage with Jim Wiley as a network so that we can learn and share best practices with other EAC's. After review of the website, it was concluded that the target for the landing is not clear who is the target audience. Shannon Pendleton added that Jim Wiley was looking for help from the Solebury EAC. She suggests that Solebury subscribe and to follow to see the audience that he generates while

Solebury builds its own website. Tim Marsh added that the Ready for 100 website could benefit from some feedback. A brief discussion followed.

John Francis said that a regional collaboration of EAC's would be invaluable.

Eric Allen thanked Timothy Marsh and Shannon Pendleton for their work.

f. Green Energy Permitting Fees

- i. Eric Allen opened the discussion on waving permit fees on green energy projects. Robert McEwan provided the EAC members notes and expanded on the proposal. John Francis and Robert McEwan explained the proposal to reduce permit fees for alternative energy items. The Planning Commission did approve it and are asking the EAC to endorse it.

- a. **Phil Getty made a motion that this EAC provide a message of support to the Board of Supervisors for the concept of providing a discount to alternative energy projects permit fees. The motion was seconded by C. L. Lindsay III. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**

g. Sustainability and Energy Plan

- i. Eric Allen distributed the Planning Commission Sustainability Initiative Update that was passed on July 11, 2022. John Francis said the 3 key items are: Planning Commission Sustainability Incentive Update, Energy Plan (published as a draft and circulated to the Board of Supervisors looking for edits) and the Sustainability Committee. Much discussion followed. Eric Allen summarized the discussion that there is general support from the EAC for the document, intent and particulars but specifics are lacking.

- a. **Eric Allen made a motion for the EAC to approve the direction of the Planning Commission's Sustainability Initiative Update but needs more definition.**

The motion was seconded by C. L. Lindsay III. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

V. New Business

Eric Allen suggested new projects for the EAC such as letters to the editor of the Bucks County Herald as an addition to the EAC's publicity efforts, exploring a reduction of vendors in trash haulers, and eliminating the seal coating of driveways. Phil Getty added hydrology concerns and things that will affect the environment in the long term such as erosion, stream control etc. Phil Getty will look over the Township of Nockamixon Hydraulics ordinance and report back to the EAC.

VI. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Eric Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. The motion was seconded by C. L. Lindsay III. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**

Respectively Submitted,
Debra McFadden
EAC Administrative Assistant