

Environmental Advisory Council
September 13, 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) Hope Blaythorne (Member), Barry Fetterolf (Member), Jim Mansfield (Member), Phil Getty (Member), Shannon Pendleton (Associate Member), John Francis (Board Liaison), and Debra McFadden (Administrator). Absent: Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), C. L. Lindsay III (Member), and Timothy Marsh (Associate Member).
- II. Approval of the Minutes

Phil Getty questioned the figures that John DeAndrea reported during Public Comment at the September 13, 2022 EAC Meeting.

 - a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the August 9, 2022 minutes and will address the incorrect numbers from the Public Comment in the Deer Management Discussion Item. The motion was seconded by Phil Getty.**
The motion carried a unanimous vote.
- III. Announcements

Eric Allen attended the Lenape Native American River Journey and Treaty Signing on August 15, 2022 in Lambertville, NJ and signed on behalf of the Solebury Township EAC. The treaty is signed every four years.

Eric Allen will not be at the next EAC meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 and Christy Cheever (Vice Chair) will oversee the meeting.

Eric Allen will not be attending the Doylestown EAC meeting but will be providing a brief summary to Curt from Doylestown. Christy Cheever and Shannon Pendleton will attend representing the Plastic Bag Ban and Sustainability. Hope Blaythorne will be there to support Bird Town and Jim Mansfield may attend.

Eric Allen asked the members to respond with their participation by noon the Monday prior to the meeting to insure there is a quorum.

John Francis reported there is a proposal for the Township to hold a climate forum

before the approval of the Energy Transition Plan for community input. If approved by the Board of Supervisors at the September 20, 2022 meeting, the forum will be held on October 13, 2022 at 6 pm at the New Hope-Solebury High School.

Discussion Items

- a. Ready for 100 Clean Energy 100
 - i. Jim Mansfield reported that the Solebury website has been updated to include a better description of the Bucks County Audubon Society's solar system. The website is set up to add additional descriptions of other solar systems, heat pumps, electric vehicles, or any other successful climate friendly projects. Jim Mansfield solicited any such success stories be sent to him to be shared with the community.
 - ii. Jim Mansfield reported that Jim Wylie from Monto continues to add resources on the website, www.pacleaenergy.com. Recently added resources are from the Clean Energy Strategic Planning Sessions on the website under the title, Community.
 - iii. Jim Mansfield gave an update that the Township has added 4 hybrid patrol cars out of a total of 8 with 2 more for delivery early next year. Additionally, Public Works has added the following electric landscape tools: 12" chain saw, a hand-held blower, an extendable pole saw, a hedge trimmer and line trimmers. The Public Works Department is happy with the performance of the electric landscape tools.
 - iv. John Francis said that Chief Bellizzie gave a report on the high-water vehicles at the Board of Supervisors meeting and are not available due to the supply chain issue.
 - v. Phil Getty suggested bio diesel for the Public Works trucks.
- b. Wild Area Stewardship / Tree City / Birdtown
 - i. Hope Blaythorne reported that she is working with Robert McEwan on developing a tree planting master plan, reviewing Solebury Township's public property and the areas that would most benefit from it.
 - ii. Hope Blaythorne received the application for the recertification for Arbor Day to be completed by February of 2023. One of the initiatives is a 2022 Growth Award for the recognition of your urban forestry program and improvements not just tree planting. Hope Blaythorne mentioned putting into place a tree ordinance and she spoke to Zach Zubris, the zoning officer regarding it. John Francis stated

that Solebury Township does have a tree ordinance but there are limits to it and is only as good as the enforcement of it. Phil Getty opened the topic of Lidar, a high-resolution monitoring program. It can identify the size of trees and show changes every year.

- iii. Shannon Pendleton added the topic of meadows with 2019 data proving the carbon sequestration of meadows is 150 X's more reliable. It stores the carbon in the ground. She asked whether Tree City has meadows as part of their program. Hope Blaythorne explained that it falls under Bird Town because it encourages more bird food and places for the birds to live. Hope Blaythorne said she would love to encourage people to grow meadows instead of yards. Shannon Pendleton suggested if there is land that we are mowing, we can do a border mow and have meadows. This could be counted when we start doing carbon counting.
 - iv. Hope Blaythorne spoke about the increase in hybrid chestnut trees and finding sourcing due to the blight. Phil Getty suggested contacting Jim Searing who lives in the area and is President of the Chestnut Association.
 - v. Hope Blaythorne called for a vote to adopt the Bird Town Resolution.
 - a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to adopt the Bird Town Resolution as drafted by Hope Blaythorne. The motion was seconded by Barry Fetterolf. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**
- John Francis requested from Hope Blaythorne a final version of the Bird Town Resolution to take to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- vi. Hope Blaythorne announced that Aquetong Watershed is having its annual meeting on October 20, 2022 at 6 pm at the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. All are welcome.
 - vii. Hope Blaythorne reported that Primrose Creek Watershed is updating their website and there is another drone footage of the quarry. John Francis gave an update regarding the DEP meeting. He explained that the focus is now on the downstream section where the spill will occur after the quarry fills and over spills. They are constructing a temporary spillway for the water to escape from and are focusing on the restoration of the immediate after spill so they can

mitigate any erosion effects that will change with the new spillway. Solebury Township and Primrose Creek Watershed are closely monitoring the situation.

c. Deer Management

i. Eric Allen said that Nate Spence reported that as of May 1st there were 48 harvests during red tag season. Archery Season begins on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Nate Spence has 200 DMAP coupons available. The Board of Supervisors will meet with Chris Garges, Township Manager, to discuss how to proceed with utilizing surplus funds.

ii. Eric Allen made a correction to the August meeting minutes from the Public Comment offered by John DeAndrea. The entire program cost was \$200,000 for one year and included the sharp shooters and the processing. The \$70,000 or \$80,000 mentioned was included in the \$200,000 cost.

d. Bag Drive and Plastic Bag Incentive

i. Christy Cheever was not in attendance.

ii. Eric Allen announced that on September 19, 2022, the plastic ban boycott will go into effect.

e. EAC Website / Social Media

i. Jim Mansfield reported that the link to the summary of the Solebury Watersheds on the Primrose Creek site is lost due to an unexpected move to another site.

Jim Mansfield is looking for a copy of it and asked if anyone has a copy to forward to him. Phil Getty recommended contacting Jade Greene from Aquetong Watershed or Princeton Hydro.

f. Invasives

i. Eric Allen reached out to Dr. Jay Kelly from Raritan Valley Community College who gave a detailed presentation on deer management and is a wonderful source of information on invasives. Dr. Jay Kelly will address invasives with a presentation at the December EAC meeting. Eric Allen asked the members to give some thought to the presentation.

g. Sustainability & Energy Plan

i. John Francis is working on the final version of the Energy Transition Plan and is hoping to get to the Board of Supervisors for approval. He is taking many suggestions for edits and is reviewing with Jim Mansfield and Shannon Pendleton. John Francis mentioned that there is a proposition for a new committee. Much discussion

followed on Sustainability.

- ii. Shannon Pendleton reported that the Public Climate Action Forum from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission met with members from all over the county to talk about their Energy Transition Plans. John Francis invited Neale Dougherty, Bucks County Director of Sustainability. Eric Allen suggested Neale Dougherty to come to a future EAC meeting.

Shannon Pendleton suggested to invite teachers and students from New Hope-Solebury School and has spoken with Leo McDonald, head of the Environmental Club, to consider their vision and mission statement to share.

- iii. Shannon Pendleton spoke about the township building HVAC system proposal posted for public comment.
- iv. John Francis said that the Planning Commission approved the Alternative Energy Ordinance with some minor modifications.

IV. New Business

Barry Fetterolf asked about the Tuscarora Gas Pipeline and whether there was oil left in the tanks. Much discussion followed on this topic.

Phil Getty mentioned a podcast that pertains to an optimistic view of the future with ideas like “transformation” versus transition. Shannon added a 4-part series on a similar subject called Solar Punk & Passive House.

V. Public Comment

Kristine Quinby was present to discuss the mile-a-minute weed and how the Township will address it and how to prevent it.

Brian Lucci was present to discuss the devastation of the mile-a minute weed to his property and surrounding properties. He suggested to add mile-a-minute weed to the bamboo ordinance. Brian Lucci has aerial photographs and has offered them if needed.

John DeAndrea offered suggestions and input on several discussion items.

VI. Adjournment

- a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion at 8:51 pm to adjourn the September 13, 2021 meeting. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**

Respectively submitted,

Debra McFadden