

Environmental Advisory Council

December 7, 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, Barry Fetterolf, William J. Birnes, Robert McEwan (Board Supervisor), Emily Kopach (Administrator) and John DeAndrea. Absent: John Francis (Board Liaison), Debra McFadden (Administrator).
- II. Approval of the Minutes

The November 9, 2021 minutes will be available at the next meeting on January 11, 2022.
- 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 Clean Energy Planning Group met on December 1, 2021 to brainstorm ways to energize the community. Some of the ideas discussed were maps on the website, ideas to show success, town hall meeting on electrification, electric cars. engaging with schools and their students. Jim Mansfield spoke with Jeremy Pfancook, the AP Environmental Science Teacher at New Hope Solebury High School. Jeremey Pfancook is interested in what they are doing and will meet with Jim Mansfield.
 - ii. Jim Mansfield asked about putting information on the website. Robert McEwan suggested to put something like solar power, geothermal, plastic ban, etc. in the Solebury Messenger every other month.

b. Wild Area Stewardship /Tree Town / Birdtown

- i. Hope Blaythorne reported that there are no updates for the watersheds and thanked anyone who joined the watershed membership in the last two months.
- ii. Hope Blaythorne mentioned that she was going to take the Birdtown Committee workshop to better understand and advance Birdtown in Solebury Township. Hope Blaythorne to share the link for the Birdtown workshop with the EAC members.
- iii. Hope Blaythorne said that she has not been able to validate that Solebury Township is a Tree Town after several attempts. Hope Blaythorne will start the process again.
- iv. Hope Blaythorne asked if anyone had read the article in the Bucks County Herald about why there are no trash cans at Aquetong Spring Park for dog waste collection. Barry Fetterolf said that none of the parks have trash cans due to the expense. Robert McEwan added that it was not just the cost but was decided not to put the trash cans in the parks because the trash cans were misused.

c. Deer Management

- i. Eric Allen reported that they are moving toward the cull. Nate Spence was on his property this week and identified a bait station so hopefully will get some results on his property.
- ii. Eric Allen noted that he will attend the regional EAC meeting in February and will chair a deer super committee for the surrounding townships addressing the deer management on a more regional basis.
- iii. Eric Allen mentioned an article in the New Yorker about the deer management program on Staten Island.
- iv. Jim Mansfield mentioned that the Audubon Education Committee met with Nate Spence to discuss Honey Hollow for the program.

d. Coal-Tar Based Sealcoat

- i. Joe Kubiak said there was nothing new to report for the coal-tar based sealcoat at this time and will pick it up next year.

e. Re-useable Bag Drive

- i. Christy Cheever reported that there is a draft plastic bag ordinance. Christy Cheever compared the ordinance to the one found on the Beyond Plastic website. Christy Cheever summarized the ordinance and wanted clarification as to whether the ordinance should have the option offering single use plastic bag for 10 cents or eliminating plastic bags completely and, also offering low income and senior residents free paper bags at businesses.
- ii. Eric Allen called for a vote from the EAC members and it was unanimously agreed to eliminate businesses from offering plastic bags completely and providing free paper bags for low income and senior residents. The EAC unanimously agreed for Christy Cheever to make the edits, Christy Cheever agreed that her response would be sent back to the EAC the following week for review and then forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.
- iii. Eric Allen thanked Christy Cheever for all of her efforts.
- iv. Christy Cheever asked for the ban on plastics for business to include plastic stirrers and splash guards. The EAC members unanimously agreed.

f. EAC Website / Social Media

- i. Jim Mansfield reported that Robert McEwan has compiled new and valuable water information that needs to be added to the website.
- ii. Jim Mansfield would like consolidate and organize the water information on the website.
- iii. Hope Blaythorne is going to look into where the watershed data is stored and get back to Jim Mansfield.
- iv. Eric Allen thanked Jim Mansfield for all of his efforts to enhance the website.

g. Suggestions for new discussions items

- i. Eric Allen asked everyone for any ideas on new discussion items.
- ii. Jim Mansfield suggested the subject of composting. Barry Fetterolf gave several variations on how to collect and instructions on how it is done.

VI. Public Comment

- a. John DeAndrea commented on composting and gave a brief description of how to compost and suggested to educate the residents on composting.

- b. John DeAndrea commented on not having the trash cans at the parks and gave ideas on how to stop people from dropping off their trash.
 - c. John DeAndrea mentioned Co2 and its impact on the environment.
- VII. Adjournment
- a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion at 8:15 pm to adjourn the December 7, 2021 meeting. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**

Respectively submitted,
Debra McFadden