

Environmental Advisory Council

February 8, 2022– 7:00 PM

ZOOM Videoconference

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Eric Allen called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.
- II. The following persons were in attendance: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Hope Blaythorne, Jim Mansfield, Barry Fetterolf, John Francis (Board Liaison), Debra McFadden (Administrator), Robert McEwan (Board Supervisor) and John DeAndrea.
- III. Approval of the November 9, 2021 Minutes and December 7, 2021 Minutes

MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the November 9, 2021 Minutes. Jim Mansfield called for a revision under the Discussion items for Deer Management to clarify 76- 35 per square mile. Eric Allen called for the approval of the November 9, 2021 Minutes with revision. Barry Fetterolf seconded the motion. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the December 7, 2021 Minutes. Jim Mansfield seconded the motion. The motion carried a unanimous vote.
- IV. Announcements
 - a. There were no new announcements.
- V. New Business
 - a. Nomination of Vice Chair –

MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to nominate Christy Cheever as Vice Chair. It was seconded by Barry Fetterolf. The motion carried a unanimous vote.
- VI. Discussion Items
 - a. Ready for 100 Clean Energy Initiative
 - i. Jim Mansfield reported that the Ready for 100 Bucks County met via Zoom to discuss the Bucks County Model Ordinance for climate change and commented on the appointment of a Director of Sustainability, Neil Dougherty. Jim Mansfield mentioned a new website, build.gov, which explains the implementation of the infrastructure bill and where money is being directed for climate change. There

was a decision to go to bi-monthly meetings and possibly with Philadelphia suburban counties.

- ii. Jim Mansfield reported that the Clean Energy Group met via Zoom the theme continues to be community wide how to save energy. Each community is doing it differently through various means such as Town Hall meetings, virtual education classes, direct mail, Township and websites passing ordinances.
 - iii. Jim Mansfield said that he will be working with Robert McEwan and Michele Blood on the website regarding climate change.
 - iv. Jim Mansfield added that Clean Energy heat pump special interest group met on January 27, 2022 about heat pump applications. The conclusion of this meeting was that heat pumps save money over electric heat, oil heat and propane.
- b. Wild Area Stewardship /Tree Town / Birdtown
- i. Hope Blaythorne reported that Primrose Creek Watershed was awarded a \$5,000 grant for tree planting. This will help stabilize erosion after Ida and help with the sink holes. This will be located on the Solebury School site near School Lane. Hope Blaythorne said that the drone run will be in March and will give some insight with the Quarry. Jim Mansfield to provide Hope Blaythorne with a contact for the Bucks County Audubon Society.
 - ii. Hope Blaythorne reported updates from the Aquetong Watershed Association for 2021. One of the highlights was a roadside cleanup consisting of 18 volunteers that collected 35 plus bags of trash. Aquetong Creek won the 2021 Wild and Scenic mini grant award from Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic grant to purchase physical monitoring probes and they are expanding their program to include downstream of Aquetong Spring Park and Logan Square.
 - iii. John Francis reported that the Aquetong Spring Park Committee is no longer and will be divided between the EAC and Park & Rec. Eric Allen asked that Aquetong Spring Park be added as a discussion item to the March Agenda.
 - iv. Hope Blaythorne reported that the PA Birdtown Committee is holding some great events such as How to Pull a Committee Together and the No Mow May to benefit pollinators and wildlife. On February 17, 2022, there will be a Birdtown Leader Workshop. Eric Allen mentioned the Birdtown.org website and for community involved recognition.

- v. Hope Blaythorne reported that we met the criteria for Tree Town and there will be more information to come.
- c. Deer Management
- i. Eric Allen thanked everyone who sent the NY Times article about the white tail deer and how they have become a reservoir of COVID and as carriers could potentially put people and animals at risk.
 - ii. Eric Allen reported the cull had very positive numbers. USDA team was out for 6 nights so far, which represents 12% of the time and harvested 141 deer which is 14.1 % of target time which put the program ahead of schedule. Of the harvest, 60 % were doe and 40 % were buck and produced approximate 4,200 lbs. of venison that was distributed to Philadelphia food banks.
 - iii. Jim Mansfield mentioned that Audubon joined the Deer Management Program.
- d. Re-useable Bag Drive
- i. Christy Cheever compared the proposed Solebury ordinance to the Lambertville ordinance and mentioned several differences. Lambertville does not charge for paper bags while we are proposing a 10-cent bag fee, Christy Cheever suggested to consider removing the fee and let stores provide alternatives. Additionally, Lambertville has a 10-month grace period while we are proposing a 6-month period. Lambertville banned plastic straws but if a customer asked for a straw the business could give one. Businesses can provide a paper bag of recyclable material or 2.25 ml reusable plastic bag. Christy Cheever further noted the Environmental Commission of Lambertville would gather data during 10-month grace period. To summarize, Eric Allen proposed that we should ban all plastic straws and the EAC agreed and further offered not to allow the reusable heavy-duty plastic bags and the EAC agreed. John Francis will forward the draft edited version of the ordinance to the Township solicitor. Barry Fetterolf will forward the article regarding reducing plastic in the kitchen.
- e. EAC Website / Social Media
- i. Jim Mansfield reported that he and Robert McEwan worked to codify the water information changes on the website and there is a meeting scheduled with Michele Blood the following week. The water section has been reorganized and we have added supplementary information.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Robert McEwan asked the EAC for a few action items to promote lowering carbon emissions and slow climate change. He is looking for the endorsement of the EAC to not only lower the permit fees charged for solar and wind, geothermal and car charging stations but to help publicize these reductions to incentivized the residents. Additionally, he requested that the EAC take their endorsement to the Board of Supervisors. It was suggested that they ask Dennis Carney to ask Zach Zubris for the number of these permits to determine the impact to the Township.
- b. John DeAndrea gave a brief presentation on the benefits of geothermal heat pumps and solar energy.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. **MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion at 8: 22 pm to adjourn the February 8, 2022 meeting. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**

Respectively submitted,

Debra McFadden