

Environmental Advisory Council

March 14, 2023– 7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

The following persons were in attendance: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Phil Getty, Shannon Pendleton, C. L. Lindsay III, Scott Blank, Hope Blaythorne, Jeanne Litwin, Louise Levy, Kate Robeson-Grubb, Robert McEwan (Board Liaison) and Debra McFadden (Administrator).

Absent: Tim Marsh and Barry Fetterolf.

I. Call to Order

a. Eric Allen called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

II. Approval of the February 14, 2023

MOTION: Upon a motion by Eric Allen and seconded by C. L. Lindsay III, it was unanimously agreed to approve the February 14, 2023 minutes with corrections.

III. Announcements

a. Shannon Pendleton characterized the Energy Transition Plan Steering Committee as a Sub Committee who will report to the EAC and who then will report to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Pendleton received clarification that non-voting members of the EAC can be on the Energy Transition Plan Steering Sub-Committee without taking away from two (2) EAC members.

IV. New Business

No New Business.

V. Discussion Items

a. Wild Area Stewardship / Watersheds

- i. Robert McEwan introduced Karen Ogden, Watershed Specialist for the Bucks County Conservation District, who attended the meeting on Zoom.
- ii. Hope Blaythorne shared a watershed map with the Council and Karen Ogden to send an updated version of the map.
- iii. Francis Collins, President of the Primrose Watershed Association, thanked the Council for the invitation to present at the meeting. Francis Collins

gave a presentation of the drone survey of the quarry. Mr. Collins gave an overview of the Watershed Implementation Plan: Quarry monitoring, to seek multiyear funding, restoration, Solebury Community Partnership, invasives, stormwater management, and community education.

- iv. Shannon Pendleton represented the Aquetong Watershed and shared their mission to conserve, to preserve and to protect the natural resources of the watershed. The website is www.aquetongwatershed.org. Aquetong Watershed is a 501C3 and their vision is to maintain and enhance the quality and beauty of the organization. The Aquetong Watershed Association gives a yearly scholarship, the Malcom P. Crooks Scholarship, to a student in the AP Environmental Science Class at the New Hope Solebury High School. Ms. Pendleton said they do volunteer work, cleanup along the Aquetong Creek and the roadside, monitor, tree planting, etc. Ms. Pendleton announced that the Aquetong Watershed Association just won the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic mini grant to maintain the monitoring probes. Brian Keys from the Aquetong Watershed Association said that their annual Spring littler clean up is being held on Saturday, April 22nd at 9 am with a rain date of Sunday, April 23rd.
- v. Karl Pettit representing Pidcock Creek Watershed gave a brief history on the watershed.
- vi. Kurt Leasure representing the Paunacussing Creek Watershed gave a brief summary of the watershed.
- vii. Discussion followed about watershed groups, combining watersheds, yearly meetings, resident support and ways to find best practices.
- viii. Hope Blaythorne spoke about maintaining Birdtown and Tree City designation. Ms. Blaythorne spoke about the Master Falconer, Gregory Wojitera that will be at the Free Library of Solebury New Hope Library on April 22, 2023 and the book that was donated by the EAC to the library, Peregrine Spring by Nancy Cowan.
- ix. Hope Blaythorne gave a list of upcoming events.

b. Deer Management

- i. Eric Allen reported that in 2022 there were six hundred and seventy-one (671) deer removed and as of 2/28/23 there have been two hundred and twenty-six (226) deer removed. Mr. Allen said that six thousand nine hundred thirty-five (6,935) pounds of deer meat has been donated to food banks. Mr. Allen mentioned that there is no hunting the week of March 13 due to the drone survey. Mr. Allen reported when the program began there was a deer density of seventy-seven (77) per square mile and in 2022, the deer density was down to forty-four (44) per square mile. The drone survey will give us the documentation to determine how effective the program have been.

c. Sustainability

- i. Shannon Pendleton reported that the sustainability subcommittee has not been approved by the Board of Supervisors and is on the agenda for discussion at the March 21, 2023 meeting. The virtual intro meeting to solicit members is on hold pending Board of Supervisors approval.
- ii. Ms. Pendleton is drafting a sample RFP and scope of services for the Council to review and then to recommend to the Board of Supervisors.
- iii. Ms. Pendleton is working with Kate Robeson-Grubb to create a dedicated area on the website for the Energy Transition Plan, a newsletter signup, and a QR code.
- iv. Ms. Pendleton mentioned the that they are still reviewing the Energy Transition Plan and have received three (3) proposals. Ms. Pendleton said that the Energy Transition Plan is on the website and asked the Council to review it.

d. Social Media

- i. Tim Marsh was absent .

e. Recycling & Trash

- i. Due to a power outage at the township building and loss of the Zoom Meeting, Christy Cheever was unable to report on this topic.
- ii. C. L. Lindsay III and Scott Blank to work on trash hauling.

f. Earth Day Planning

- i. Hope Blaythorne led the discussion on the Earth Day Event being held at the Bucks County Audubon Society on Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 10 am until 3 pm. Some of the items discussed were Bird Habitat Certification, native plants, Arbor Day seedlings, how to naturalize yards creating meadows. A few members will meet informally prior to the next EAC meeting to create QR codes and see what assets that they have available for the Solebury EAC table.

g. Miscellaneous Subjects

- i. Eric Allen suggested to the Council that Hope Blaythorne and Phil Getty work together on water issues utilizing his extensive knowledge of the area and technical expertise.
- ii. Phil Getty contacted Dave Benner's widow and son for tree planting ideas as a memorial to him. Phil Getty suggested contacting Park and Rec to explore the idea of open areas to plant memorial trees that would also tie in with Tree City and Arbor Day. Shannon Pendleton said that Aquetong Spring Park switched from memorial benches to planting trees.
- iii. Phil reported that Nockamixon Hydro Ordinance has not been completed yet.
- iv. Phil Getty reviewed the Quarry Drone Footage and will report back with more details.

VI. Public Comment

Brian Keyes talked about the book Peregrine Spring by Nancy Cohen.

Karl Pettit asked about upcoming items that the EAC was working on.

VII. Adjournment

Eric Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Debra McFadden