

Environmental Advisory Council

April 12, 2022– 7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Eric Allen called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

The following persons were in attendance: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Jim Mansfield (Member), Barry Fetterolf (Member), Phil Getty (Member), Hope Blaythorne (Member), Shannon Pendleton (Associate Member), John Francis (Board Liaison), Debra McFadden (Administrator). Absent: C. L. Lindsay III (Member).
- II. Approval of the March 8, 2022 Minutes

MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the March 8, 2022 Minutes. Minutes were approved with correction. Barry Fetterolf seconded the motion. The motion carried a unanimous vote.
- III. Announcements
 - a. Eric Allen asked the members to share their experience about the Earth Day Event at the Bucks County Audubon Society. Jim Mansfield said that the day was very successful and was good for the interrelations of the different organizations. Eric Allen added that it was good for public awareness. Hope Blaythorne suggested interactive workshops for next year.
- IV. Discussion Items
 - a. Wild Area Stewardship / Watersheds
 - i. Francis Collins from the Primrose Watershed elaborated on the Watershed Implementation Plan through a grant from the Delaware River Greenway Partnership and gave thanks to 40 plus volunteers- 53 trees were planted along Primrose Creek at Solebury School. The site was chosen among many existing bald areas using a geographic information system. Additionally, 4 beehives were installed.
 - ii. Tim Hayes, Field Coordinator for Penn Future and Conservation Voters of PA, outlined the roles of these 2 organizations and their efforts to advocate clean air,

clean water, clean energy and a clean environment and also inform Bucks County voters on the voting record of state and local representatives on environmental issues.

- iii. Jade Greene representing Aquetong Watershed invited everyone to the Stream Clean Up, Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 9 AM at the Bucks County Audubon Society. Additionally, Jade Greene reported that they are using funding from the Delaware River Wild & Scenic Grant to procure monitors for streams and ponds including small temperature monitors and aquatic macroinvertebrates sampling in 2 locations.
 - iv. Brian Keyes from Aquetong Watershed led the discussion on Adopt A Highway and litter clean up.
 - v. Karl Pettit representing Piddock Creek gave an update on Piddock Creek and Bowman's Hill with no recent action to report.
- b. Ready for 100 Clean Energy Initiative
- i. Jim Mansfield reported that the Bucks County Group has been meeting for 2 years and to consolidate their efforts is moving to a multi set of meetings that includes Bucks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware Counties. The first meeting will be March 30, 2022 and will meet every other month.
 - ii. Jim Mansfield reported that the Sierra Club is changing the structure of the National Ready for 100 campaign to more of a local basis. It has been so successful that 1 -3 people in the U S lives in a Ready for 100 community, state or county. Jim Mansfield stated that this does not apply to South Eastern PA as they have always been in the forefront with over 40 organizations.
 - iii. Jim Mansfield said that Jim Wiley, Principal to all four counties of Ready for 100, is proposing a combined website to consolidate information, the website is pacleenergy.com. Jim Mansfield sent an email to the EAC Members in April and would like everyone to view this website and provide feedback.
 - iv. Jim Mansfield mentioned that on March 9, 2022 he attended a zoom meeting on Community Choice Aggregation. This would allow the entire community to pick a clean energy provider together. John Francis asked about the cost increase to the

community. Jim Mansfield to send Shannon Pendleton information on the program.

c. Wild Area Stewardship /Tree Town / Birdtown

- i. Hope Blaythorne reported that she is working with Heidi on a form that enables residents to purchase a Birdtown sign for \$20.
- ii. Hope Blaythorne mentioned the article in the NY Times on No Mow May, a program that started in the UK, with the idea of reducing mowing in the month of May to allow pollinators an additional month of the availability of flowers.
- iii. Hope Blaythorne offered the idea of some official recognition of residents or groups for outstanding environmental activity.

d. Aquetong Spring Park

- i. Barry Fetterolf reported on teaching kids fly fishing. Barry Fetterolf met with Bucks County Trout Unlimited and they are very enthusiastic about the project and have assigned one of their directors to meet to discuss plans to use Aquetong Spring Park as a place to cast and present a fly. Barry Fetterolf to meet on April 25, 2022 with Trout Unlimited to discuss a section of Cuttalossa Creek where kids under 12 could catch fish with a fly rod.
- ii. Barry Fetterolf met with Dan Dupont from Park & Rec about fishing and hay bale gardening and was invited to the next meeting to discuss both topics.

e. Deer Management

- i. Eric Allen reported that the program has been tremendously successful and is well ahead of targets. Over 19 nights of hunting, 459 deer have been harvested which is in excess of 25 per night. To date, 14,000 lbs of organic protein have been sent to Philadelphia Food Banks. They have been contracted for 50 nights of work but may not get to it in April but may be able to do some residual nights in the fall.
- ii. Eric Allen reported that the drone survey has been completed but is somewhat inconclusive since it was done during the cull. Last year, there were 76 deer per sq. mile counted and this year it dropped to 66 per sq. mile, a 9% reduction of the herd.

f. Bag Drive and Plastic Bag Incentive

- i. Christy Cheever led the discussion on the Plastic Bag Regulation Ordinance. John Francis suggested to circulate the final document to the EAC members with a recommendation for approval. Christy Cheever will email to the members the document to be voted for approval at the next EAC meeting.
- ii. Eric Allen asked Christy Cheever to email the EAC logo with the Plastic bag Ordinance.

g. EAC Website / Social Media

- i. Jim Mansfield reported that Michele Blood and Dale Wilcox did wonderful work with the website. Michele Blood provided the EAC with a website address: eac@soleburytwp.org. Emails will be received by both Jim Mansfield and Eric Allen and then passed onto other members.

IV. New Business

a. Burning Ordinance

- i. John Francis explained there is not a burning ordinance currently in place and asked the EAC if they would like to debate the issue.

b. Light Pollution

- i. C.L. Lindsay to provide information on this topic and was not present.

V. Public Comment

Lisa Menz commented complimented the EAC on all of their work and commented on the plastic bag drive.

John DeAndrea from the Planning Commission spoke about incentives for projects such as geothermal, HVAC and solar panels. Shannon Pendleton will put some ideas together on incentives on a global basis.

VI. Adjournment

Eric Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Debra McFadden