

Environmental Advisory Council

November 10, 2022– 7:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- a. Eric Allen called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

The following persons were in attendance: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair) Phil Getty (Member), Hope Blaythorne (Member),

C. L. Lindsay III (Member), Shannon Pendleton (Associate Member), Tim Marsh (Associate Member), John Francis (Board Liaison), and Debra McFadden (Administrator).

Absent: Barry Fetterolf (Member), Jim Mansfield (Member)

II. Approval of the October 11, 2022 Minutes

MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the October 11, 2022 Minutes with minor correction. Phil Getty seconded the motion. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

III. Announcements

- a. Eric Allen announced that at year end due to a new opportunity, Jim Mansfield is stepping down as a member of the EAC. Shannon Pendleton will fill his place as a full-time member.
- b. John Francis gave a brief overview of the Climate & Energy Forum held at the New Hope Solebury High School on October 13, 2022 with an attendance of more than 40. Speakers included Neale Dougherty, Bucks County Planning Commission Director of Sustainability, Peter Brussock of the Elm Group, Shannon Pendleton of Sanderson Sustainable Design, and Jim Mansfield. Residents then formed into small groups and discussed topics. Immediate action was community engagement, advice on how to reduce energy usage, interest in electrical vehicles, and suggestions on nuclear power plant.
- c. Eric Allen summarized the Regional EAC Summit held in October. It was well attended but a different format than usual. Hope Blaythorne, Christy Cheever and Eric Allen attended. Eric Allen presented on Deer Management. Hope Blaythorne said that she was very proud attending as a member of the Solebury EAC due to the accomplishments

of the plastic bag ban, deer management, etc. Christy Cheever agreed with Hope Blaythorne on the accomplishments of Solebury's EAC but felt that there was a missed opportunity due to the summit's format change for more specific presentations. Phil Getty suggested to invite neighboring EACs to a meeting. Tim Marsh suggested doing a zoom meeting.

IV. Discussion Items

a. Ready for 100 Clean Energy Initiatives

- i. Jim Mansfield was absent.

b. Wild Area Stewardship / Watersheds

- i. Hope Blaythorne reported that she submitted the documentation for Arbor Day certification but won't hear back until February 2023.
- ii. Hope Blaythorne is exploring a viable Tree City plan which would include a formal tree removal ordinance and the tree planting efforts occurring in the township such as Primrose Creek seeking additional funding for tree planting.
- iii. Hope Blaythorne asked whether the township had a select tree maintenance contractor. John Francis explained that tree removal on the state roads are being done by PECO. Robert McEwan added that Dudley Rice and Simone Collins are working on tree planting ideas on open township properties.
- iv. Hope Blaythorne will send the EAC adopted Birdtown Municipal Resolution to John Francis.
- v. Hope Blaythorne reported that the Birdtown Resolution passed. Heidi will attend the December EAC meeting for a photo op and give us the new Bird Town signs. She added the existing Birdtown Board was voted in and she is planning a Birdtown plan for the 2023 as we need to meet certain criteria to remain a Birdtown. There is a 4-tiered program certification that we will need to meet to be considered bronze, silver and gold. Also, we will have to provide an annual report each year. Robert McEwan asked for notification on what the criteria is for the 4-tiered program.
- vi. Hope Blaythorne confirmed that Bowman's Hill Wild Life Preserve will present at the February EAC meeting, the Watersheds in March and Bucks County Audubon Society in April. She raised the question on whether we will want an

EAC Calendar due to the 2023 presentations and possibly an open house in May for surrounding townships.

- c. Deer Management
 - i. Eric Allen reported from Nate Spence, USDA Liaison, the results from last year's cull. The hunting program harvested 96 deer, 71 % being females. Harvest totals are trending down from years as this is a common observation after a substantial herd reduction. This is one piece of evidence that last year's management is being very effective. Another measurement of the success of the program is the 50% reduction in deer related traffic accidents as reported by the Solebury Police. USDA Wild Life Services will continue the cull next year and manage that same way that they did this past year. In addition, to protect the borders of Solebury Township from non-participating municipalities in the deer management, program Nate Spence has been working with local farmers.
 - d. Bag Drive and Plastic Bag Incentive
 - i. Christy Cheever reported that the plastic bag ban was in full effect. It was observed at Giant that they were not charging the ten cents for the paper bags. Christy Cheever spoke with Giant's manager who said that corporate advised that the paper bags are costly and they will be charging for paper bags. Christy Cheever said that it was going very well so far and was happy for the grace period for the consumer and public acceptance. A brief discussion followed on the ordinance, amendments and what is included in the ban.
 - e. EAC Website / Social Media
 - i. Jim Mansfield was absent.
 - ii. Eric Allen asked for a member to fill Jim Mansfield's role with the EAC website and social media. Tim Marsh said he would like to talk with Jim Mansfield on what this would entail.
 - f. Sustainability & Energy Plan
 - i. John Francis gave a brief overview in the announcements.
- V. New Business
- Tim Marsh reported that he followed up last month with Jim Wiley about the website, pacleanenergy.com. Near time goals were for an administrator to serve as content creator and to add Solebury Township as a member. Long term goals were for testimonials from anyone on

clean energy, editorial advice for the website, duplicating articles, websites on clean energy and to form a steering committee that looks at the future. Costs were deferred for now. Tim Marsh volunteered to help with content and there were no objections.

Phil Getty mentioned that he emailed his neighbor regarding the Tuscarora Pipeline and will follow up over the next month. Phil Getty to send John Francis a copy of the map.

Phil Getty followed up on the Nockamixon Township Hydro Ordinance and reported it will about another month or two before approval.

Phil Getty attended the AWA Annual Meeting and there was a speaker from Penn Futures who reported that stream surface water samples were collected in Solebury and microplastics were found but noted that microplastics are found everywhere.

Phil Getty will follow up on amphibian crossing.

Eric Allen asked about pursuing a single trash hauler for the township. Discussion followed on this subject. This will be an agenda item going forward.

Shannon Pendleton announced that 2 representatives from the New Hope Solebury Township High School's Environmental Club who attended the Climate Energy Forum met with the Facilities Committee and have been invited to be on the committee to discuss topics and initiate ideas on solar panels, waste, etc.

Shannon Pendleton attended the PhiusCon Green Building Meeting in Chicago and gave a brief report.

VI. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

VII. Adjournment

Eric Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Debra McFadden