



EAC MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2022

6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The March 2, 2022 meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held in person.

Jon West	Chair
Erica Antoine	Vice Chair
Joanne Walker	Secretary
Scott McCartney	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Denise Hull and Brian Hutchinson were absent

Present from the public Sherry Chen

2. Minutes April 6, 2022

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Walker, and seconded by Mr. McCartney, the minutes of April 6, 2022 were unanimously approved.

3. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Arbor Day Tree Sale

- Event follow up

Mrs. Simelaro complimented the EAC for doing such a great job on the tree sale. Ms. Weaver reported 10 trees were left over from the sale. Parks and Rec will take the leftover trees, or Mr. West can reach out to the Lansdale EAC about purchasing/planting some trees. Mr. Alvarez said for next year we should include some shrubs and do only smaller trees. Ms. Weaver will send Mrs. Walker the names of interested volunteers they received at the Tree Sale event.

ii. Environmental Education and Outreach

- Earth Day (4/22)
 - Event follow up

Mr. West reported there were not many people in attendance at the Earth Day event. A 5'x5' plot of land was prepped for a lawn to meadow conversion. Mrs. Antoine suggested an Earth Day Open House.

- Rain Barrel Workshop (5/25)
 - Planning

This event will be outdoors or in the Community Center depending on the weather. We currently have 10 people signed up with 5 spots remaining. The rain barrels should be delivered prior to the event by the Perkiomen Watershed and staff will put them in place the day of the event.

- Home Energy Audit (unplugged week)

Mr. McCartney is waiting to hear from PECO. He will follow up with PECO and update Mrs. Prebis on the status of the program.

- Composting Workshop (9/21)

No updates. Committee will submit information for the next newsletter.

- iii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force
 - Update

Mr. McCartney said Ms. Chen received a quote on the energy audit for the Township building. He will also see if we can do something jointly with PECO. Ms. Chen said the energy audit from PES (Practical Energy Solutions) is \$9900 for the Admin Building and she drafted a letter to the Commissioners recommending the audit. She asked what is the next step? Mr. West said the EAC would review the proposal and letter. Ms. Weaver said this is not a budgeted item for this year and it will have to be included for the next budget year. Mrs. Antoine said we should review the 2015 audit to see if there was any savings related to the audit. She asked if the architect has any energy savings incorporated into the meeting room design plan. Ms. Weaver said they only proposed LED lighting. Mr. McCartney said we are looking into possible grants for funding. Mrs. Simelaro said energy audits are a great tool to make improvements. Ms. Weaver said our energy bill does not include comparable energy information. Ms. Chen attended a webinar on charging stations and reported that PECO is in the application process for funding. She asked how we can plan for electric charging stations in the Township. Ms. Weaver said this isn't something the Township has looked into yet, but they would possibly be interested in this for the future and would certainly be interested in grant opportunities for this project. Ms. Weaver said Mrs. Prebis is working on a Parks concept plan and this can possibly be added to the plan. Ms. Chen there are rebates available from PADEP and PECO to offset charging station costs. Ms. Weaver will talk with Mrs. Prebis about this possible project.

ADD Energy Audit update to June Agenda

Committee to review the proposal, 2015 audit and memo from Ms. Chen.

- b. Plan Review Checklist and Questionnaire
 - Final draft / Board Memo

Mrs. Walker made a minor change based on Mr. West's comment. This will be sent to Ms. Weaver to be sent to appropriate review boards.

- c. Tree City ordinance review by MCPC
 - Continued to May 11 PC Meeting

Mr. West said he will attend the Planning Commission meeting to discuss the Tree City Ordinance with the committee. He said he will explain to the Planning Commission what a critical service it is to update and strengthen the SALDO on what was put in the Comprehensive Plan. The tree city ordinance is just one step in that direction. A discussion ensued regarding the Emerald Ash Bore and any efforts to address it.

- d. Review of pesticide/herbicide use in public spaces
 - Township pesticide/herbicide list

Ms. Weaver distributed the list today for the committee to review. Mr. McCartney said the company applying these pesticides should be licensed by DEP on proper application process. Mrs. Walker will add some social media blast posts to address the issue of pesticide application for the homeowner.

- e. Regional Plastic Bag Ban
 - Surveys

Mr. West reported that NJ has issued a plastic bag ban statewide. Ms. Weaver said NJ is also banning paper bags. Mr. Alvarez said they have banned all single use items. Mr. West said there is a ban and fee strategy – you ban the bags but collect a fee for other single use items. He added that Wegman's is discontinuing plastic bags by year end. Ambler Borough presented their proposed plastic bag ban to the public. Mr. West said Philly is looking into a ban and fee strategy. He will draft a memo regarding putting out a survey regarding the plastic bag ban. Currently 15% of the PA population lives in an area with a plastic bag ban.

4. New Business

- a. Volunteer Recruitment

Mr. West said there is a girl scout leader that Mrs. Walker will reach out to and Mr. West will reach out to someone from the School District for some local students volunteering (North Penn Enact Club). Ms. Chen offered to help.

5. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver said she will share a sketch plan we received for 10 dwelling units at West Point Pike and Moyer Blvd. The concept plan does show a connecting trail. This concept plan doesn't require a review at this time. Staff at the WWTP noticed that a resident poured paint down a drain and followed the trail to the resident's driveway. The owner was cited for the violation. They were able to contain and clean up the paint before it entered a waterway.

6. Upcoming Workshops and Events

Native Plant Sale this weekend from Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy at Peter Wentz Farm.

Penn State Master Gardeners program at Montgomery County 4 H center on May 14

Planning Commission Meeting on 5/11

Gwynedd Preserve – Kids read and explore on May 7 at 10 am and a bird walk on May 26 with Natural Lands Ornithologist.

7. Adjournment

Mrs. Antoine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Walker, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Next Meeting June 1, 2022 @ 6 pm at the Pavilion (weather permitting)