



EAC MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2022

6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The June 1, 2022 meeting was called to order at 6:07pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held in person.

Jon West	Chair
Scott McCartney	Member
Brian Hutchinson	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Denise Hull	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager

Erica Antoine, Joanne Walker, Martha Simelaro and Deanna Logan were absent. Present from the public Sherry Chen.

2. Minutes May 4, 2022

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Hutchinson, and seconded by Mr. McCartney the minutes of May 4, 2022 were unanimously approved.

3. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Environmental Education/ Outreach

- Rain Barrel Workshop (5/25)

Mr. West reported that the rain barrel workshop was a success. The Perkiomen Watershed did a great job running this event again and thanked Ms. Weaver for helping coordinate.

- Home Energy Audit (unplugged week)

Mr. McCartney reached out to PECO but unfortunately had not heard back. Mr. McCartney is seeing if PECO would like to come out and do something for the Carnival or Fall Festival. Mr. West suggested possibly getting some materials from them if they cannot attend. Mr. McCartney said maybe he can get free energy audits for your homes handouts or to give information on how to do your own energy audit. Mr. West thinks it's a great idea to add it to one of those events.

- Composting Workshop (9/21)

Mr. West reported that the next upcoming workshop is the Compost workshop. Mr. West will reach out to his contact for how many participates and the cost. He will get this info for the newsletter.

- Upcoming Tabling Events

Mr. West wanted to see if there were any other events that the EAC could potentially attend. He noted that there is Fall fest coming up and possibly skipping the Carnival this year and attending North Wales Borough Community event. Lower Gwynedd Township has as table there as well.

The EAC members agreed that would be a good idea. Mr. West said he will reach out to North Wales borough to get a table.

- ii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force
 - Energy Audit Update

Mr. West reported that we do have 2 memos to consider regarding the energy audit dated May 15th and May 28th. Mr. Hutchinson stated that he unfortunately did not have a chance to review. Member of the Public Sherry Chen provided a brief recap of the memo that was distributed to the EAC. In 2015 the Township did an energy audit of the Administration and the Police Building. The other memo is recommending doing an energy audit for this year.

Mr. West recommended including the new energy audit with the budget request. It was suggested that these two memos be included into one recommendation and into the EAC budget request for 2023.

Mrs. Hull explained that prior to 2018 there were zero green things that were done. There are quite a few things that could be done as a whole, that falls within the Townships job to improve that. She said the challenge is trying to figure out what the priorities are. There is a lot that could be done. She questioned if that \$7,000 would be better used with something that is more urgent. The reason she found the Sierra Club appealing was because they looked at the whole Township. One of the reasons we have an EAC looking at the big picture and how we should prioritize where the focus should be. She recommended that the EAC look at the full Township and recommend just a few priorities. Requesting funds would be an easier sell if there are a few select priorities.

Mr. West stated at the beginning of the year, one of the priorities was just creating the task force for the RF100. There was discussion if the EAC is interested in advocating for a resolution for Ready100 and how to find a way to organize priorities on how we can be environmentally sound. It was noted that RF100 is ambitious. Ms. Chen mentioned that there are 17 municipalities in Montgomery County looking to adopt it. LGT approved the EAC's request to start drafting the RF100 resolution. UGT would be the 18th municipality to adopt a RF100 resolution. Mr. West said it is a non-bidding resolution.

Mr. McCartney said he will bring up the discussion of goals at the next task force meeting. Mr. McCartney would like to have Bill Sabey come in and do a presentation for the EAC. He is with the Sierra Club and is the Chairman of Plymouth Township's EAC and possibly have him come to one of the next meetings for a presentation to the EAC. Mrs. Hull thought that was a good idea to have him come and present. Mr. West mentioned that the EAC would like to be able to provide the BOC and residents with educational information such as pesticides. Education is an achievable goal that's not costly.

Mr. McCartney has this discussion as an action item for their next task force meeting. Mr. West recommended that they establish 3 goals/areas of focus. The task force needs to decide if the EAC wants to revise the energy audit or talk more about the big picture.

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- b. Plan Review Checklist and Questionnaire
 - Board Memo
 - Review Checklist

Ms. Weaver reported that the checklist will be reviewed by the Plan Review Committee. If approved, it will be uploaded onto the Township website to accompany the Subdivision/Land Development application.

Mr. McCartney reported that they reviewed the Moyer Blvd Sketch Plan and has some comments for the developer. Those will be placed into memo format and sent to Ms. Weaver.

c. Tree City ordinance review by UGTPC

- Update

Mr. West reported that the Planning Commission recommended their support regarding the Ordinance updates and to engage the solicitor. Ms. Weaver reported that the information will be sent to the solicitor for a draft ordinance.

d. Pesticides

Mr. McCartney reported that Ms. Weaver had provided the Township pesticide list. He will do some research and look into the list. Mr. West recommended putting together a list/memo for education purposes and maybe give a list of recommendations and what is environmentally responsible. This can create an easy read for the BOC to communicate to residents when asked. They can also create social media posts to educate the residents as well.

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e. Regional Plastic Bag Ban

- Surveys

Mr. West reported that he sent out some draft surveys. One is geared toward residents and one geared towards business. Mr. West is asking for feedback on the surveys and the memo to the BOC. Mrs. Hull asked how many questions the survey has. Mr. McCartney read through the survey questions. Mr. West explained that they are trying to gauge the support and the impact on businesses.

Ms. Chen asked how the survey would be distributed. Mr. West stated that the surveys would be distributed electronically.

Mr. West also mentioned that he can get a more accurate update on the status of the plastic bag ban with other Townships. He noted that Montgomery Township is ahead of us in terms of putting out the survey.

Mr. McCartney made a motion to accept and advance the memo, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. Mr. West said that he will run the surveys by Ms. Walker and update any grammatical errors.

4. New Business

a. Volunteer Recruitment

Mr. West said that the EAC has 10 remaining trees left over from the sale and he ran the planting by Sarah Prebis. They have some tree tenders and volunteers. They will be planting the trees at the WWTP along the stream there. Ms. Prebis thought this was a great idea. They will be planting them this Saturday at 9:30am. Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. West will make arrangements to have the trees/mulch transported to the WWTP.

b. Sensory Garden

Mr. West commented that the sensory garden looks great. He noticed a lot of native plantings.

c. Budget Report

Mr. West asked if Ms. Weaver and Mrs. Walker could work together with the budget preparation. Ms. Weaver responded that she would assist Mrs. Walker.

5. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver reported that the Street Light Procurement Plan targeted adoption date has been pushed back to July.

6. Adjournment

Mr. McCartney made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hutchinson. Meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

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