

**EAC MEETING MINUTES**

November 2, 2022

6:00 pm

**1. Call to Order**

The September 7, 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
Joanne Walker	Secretary
Erica Antoine	Member
Scott McCartney	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Denise Hull	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Martha Simelaro and Brian Hutchinson were absent

Sherry Chen was present from the public. Walt Psculkowski of Boy Scout Troop 152 offered some partnerships with the Township. Mr. West mentioned a possible rain garden to improve drainage at the Community Center that the scouts may want to be involved in. Mr. Psculkowski said three (3) scouts will be looking for Eagle Scout projects in the spring and will need service hours. He said the scouts can help with tree sales to get service hours as well.

**2. Minutes of September 7, 2022**

Upon motion of Mrs. Walker seconded by Mr. McCartney the meeting minutes of September 7, 2022 were approved unanimously.

**3. PECO Home Audit Presentation by Michael Schneller and George Mulliken**

Mrs. Antoine said this presentation is for the potential of providing home energy audits to be subsidized by the EAC.

Mr. Schneller said Act 129 mandates that all PA utilities have an energy reducing program. The energy assessments focus on residential and include: evaluation, addressing concerns, energy saving products, comprehensive improvements, connecting with qualified contractors and guides, incentives and rebates from PECO to help with energy efficient improvements. The assessments can be in person or virtual using a smartphone and each run one hour to one and a half hours. The price is \$49.00 for the assessment. PECO employs subcontractors to make the home assessments.

Mr. Schneller said the real savings comes in when the improvements are completed. He presented two (2) different ways the EAC can handle the assessments for residents

1. EAC rebates directly to residents – can offer special incentives to first 10 to sign up or raffle to 10 residents – residents are given a referral code with a pay up front for assessment
2. Hold an event to schedule assessments for residents
  - a. Offer reserved appointment times
  - b. EAC pays with credit card or check

A discussion ensued regarding when to begin this program. Mrs. Walker suggested hosting the event in the winter when energy bills are highest. Mrs. Antoine would like to advertise a “sign up” for the assessment event with a promo code prior to the end of the year and open it to a maximum of 20 people. Advertisement will be through social media and the website. The committee agreed that residents should contact the Township by the end of November to get the code and then they must schedule their assessment by December 15<sup>th</sup> so PECO can invoice the Township in 2022. The actual assessments can be held in 2023. The committee also booked an in-person assessment scheduling meeting to be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> with April 1<sup>st</sup> as a weather back up. PECO will present the program to residents who can sign up for the assessment at this meeting.

Mrs. Walker will provide a write up for Social Media posts and for the newsletter. Ms. Chen will provide the graphics for the posts.

#### 4. Old Business

##### a. Initiatives

##### i. Environmental Education/Outreach

- Composting Workshop (Recap)
- North Wales Community Day (Recap)
- Fall Fest (Recap)

Mr. West said all twenty (20) trees and shrubs were given away and the committee made good connections with community members.

Ms. Weaver will follow up with Mrs. Prebis regarding the resident who wanted to donate a tree to be planted in Whittaker Park.

Mrs. Walker gave a recap of a recent event at Haverford Township and noted their rec center building is self-sustaining. Subjects covered; Montco 2050 climate action plan, Ready for 100 (gas initiative), reaching renewable energy goals, combined heat and power systems, raingarden assessment program, and MS4 requirements.

Mr. West attended the regional EAC event in Doylestown which covered the plastic bag ban, deer population control, reforestation, watershed friendly property program, climate change and a Ready for 100 presentation.

Mrs. Walker is offering a free grant writing webinar on November 9 and November 16 at 6:30 pm.

- ii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force
- iii. Natural Resources and Open Space

b. Tree City ordinance

- Draft Ordinance Review

The committee needs to review and comment before the draft ordinance goes to the Planning Commission. The deadline for comments is November 18<sup>th</sup> and are to be sent to Mrs. Walker and Mr. West who will compile comments and present them at the December meeting.

c. Review of pesticide/herbicide use in public spaces

- Review of Memo to BOC

Mr. McCartney sent information today to the committee to review regarding suggested uses of herbicides/pesticides. Comments are to be sent to Mr. McCartney by November 18<sup>th</sup> Committee to be compiled and completed for the December meeting.

d. Regional Plastic Bag Ban

- Surveys

5. New Business

Newsletter information to include PECO Energy Audits, plastic bag survey with QR code, recap of recent EAC activities, and Arbor Day Tree Giveaway which will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion ensued regarding the plastic bag survey. We received 101 responses so far from residents but none from businesses. Mrs. Hull suggested volunteers talk to business owners about encouraging them to participate in the survey. Ms. Weaver will provide a list of businesses to the committee, and they will narrow it down to the appropriate businesses to target. Ms. Weaver reported that 87% of respondents support measures to reduce plastic waste.

Mr. Psculkowski suggested LED conversions. Mrs. Hull said we are in the process of doing that with construction occurring in 2023 as part of the streetlight procurement program. Mrs. Walker suggested a project for the boy scouts – installing wheels on small recycling bins.

6. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver reported the Township will be starting the Meadowbrook/Oakland drainage project and the Dickerson Road drainage project. There will be a pre-construction meeting soon for the Newport Lane basin retrofit. This project will help us meet our MS-4 sediment reduction requirements. Ms. Weaver said sadly we will be recommending rejecting the leaf bid as cost came in at four (4) times higher the anticipated cost.

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

Wissahickon Trails Evans Mumbar Mills Open House event November 13<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

Single use plastics coalition meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm via Zoom.

Mrs. Walker's grant writing workshop on November 9 and 16 at 6:30 pm.

#### 8. Adjournment

Mrs. Antoine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Walker, and adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Next Meeting December 7, 2022 @ 6 pm