



EAC MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2021- 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The June 2, 2021 meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm with the following individuals in attendance.

Jon West	Chairman
Erica Antoine	Member
Scott McCartney	Member
Brian Hutchinson	Member
Joanne Walker	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Sandra Zadell	Township Manager
Denise Hull	Commissioner
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

2. Minutes May 5, 2021

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mr. Hutchinson, and seconded by Mr. McCartney, the minutes of May 5, 2021 were unanimously approved

3. Draft Comprehensive Plan

The EAC made several recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan. Marley Bice, MCPC responded to each comment.

Recommendation 11

- Consider adding an implementation strategy for targeting areas to plant trees that can offset air pollution and increase air quality
- *Response by Marley Bice, County Planner:* This is covered by a note after Recommendation 11 on pages 76-77 that reads "See the Environmental Sustainability chapter for relevant implementation strategies related to maintaining and enhancing the township's tree canopy coverage which can also have air quality benefits." Specifically, the plan recommends tree planting on township-owned properties (including in parks and along streams) and encouraging planting of trees along street frontages and on private property.

Recommendation 23 Implementation Strategy

- Consider completing and adopting a Climate Action Plan that addresses the Township's desired resiliency, adaptation, and mitigation strategies in the face of climate change. Such a plan should include community energy strategic planning that address energy conservation, transition, and conversion to renewable resources on both a municipal and community-wide level.
- *Response by Marley Bice:* Recommendation 23 relates specifically to “increased use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.” A Climate Action Plan would be broader (e.g., vehicle emissions, waste reduction, water conservation) and would be consistent with multiple other recommendations in the draft comprehensive plan.
- Consider including an implementation strategy that provides information on electric vehicles (EV) to residents and provides incentives for home charger installations that encourages the transition to EV use.
- *Response by Marley Bice:* Strategy 23b recommends creating “standards for electric car charging stations.” As part of the process of considering this ordinance amendment, the township could provide education to homeowners as well.

Recommendation 25 Implementation Strategy

- Consider implementing a municipal yard waste, leaf collection and composting program. Evaluate the feasibility of such a program allowing residents to have their yard waste collected for composting, and in turn making composted material, or mulch available for use at Township properties as well as residential and commercial properties.
- *Response by Marley Bice:* This is something that was considered in an early draft of the plan; however, the feedback received was that the township does not have enough manpower or trucks to offer this service. In addition, Strategy 25d recommends offering a free or discounted compost bin program for residents to be able to more easily compost yard debris and kitchen scraps on their own properties, similar to the discounted rain barrel program that the EAC is coordinating.

Mrs. Walker said she lived in Whitemarsh Township and they offered composting service and there were a lot of issues and cost associated with it.

The Township is exploring the options and costs associated with composting and yard waste collection. Mrs. Zadell said we currently get grant funding for our recycling program, but we would not receive more funding if we implemented our own yard waste / leaf collection program. A discussion ensued on various mulching/composting programs. Mrs. Zadell mentioned that Barnside Mulching & Composting will take your clean yard waste for a fee. She added there has been a significant decrease in the amount of recycling collected as some trash haulers don't recycle yard waste. Mrs. Walker suggested a survey to residents on composting.

Economic Development

- Consider incorporating green infrastructure in any design standard updates to the zoning, subdivision and land development ordinances.
- *Response by Marley Bice:* This is covered by Strategy 21b which recommends performing an “audit of the township’s zoning, subdivision and land development, and stormwater management ordinances to identify ordinance amendments which could encourage more sustainable development practices.”

Parks and Open Space

- Consider elaborating on the Martin Tract Recreation Plan
- *Response by Marley Bice:* This could be explored in more detail as part of the recommended township-wide parks, recreation, and open space plan.

Mrs. Zadell added we will be looking into a Parks & Recreation plan to review the Township pocket parks.

West Point Village Focus Area

- Consider addressing flooding issues in this focus area, specifically along Park Road.
- *Response by Marley Bice:* There is no floodplain in this portion of the township; therefore, the flooding issues may be alleviated by continued stormwater management infrastructure upgrades, as outlined in Recommendation 22.

Mrs. Zadell said we are working on Garfield Avenue to create natural berms to send the stormwater to the stormdrains.

Mr. West said overall the Comprehensive Plan is a very good plan and he was impressed with it. Mrs. Zadell said comment time closed today; the plan now goes to the Planning Commission for review.

4. Old Business
 - a. Initiatives
 - i. Environmental Education and Outreach

Mr. West wants to plan some community outreach programs and put the new logo on some items.

- Mrs. Walker suggested a “plant cutting” exchange
- Mr. McCartney suggested events with children – Mrs. Zadell suggested adding environmental educational events along with Parks/Rec program. Mr. McCartney will contact Heidi Lucas for suggestions.
- Mr. Hutchinson suggested recreational tree climbing classes for children. Mr. West will reach out to Gail Farmer regarding education.

- Community outreach at public events – movie nights, night sky camp out, concerts, arts in the park, Fall Fest
- Mrs. Zadell suggested social media blasts – Mrs. Walker will coordinate information for to be circulated on social media

Mr. McCartney and Mr. West will report back to the committee about educational events in July.

Mrs. Zadell suggested the committee decide on a whole year of events for budgeting and advertising purposes.

The committee decided to purchase a logo tablecloth to use at the events as well as MS-4 stickers and EAC logo stickers, squishy balls, reusable straws and t-shirts for the committee. Everything to be ready prior to Fall Fest.

The Rain Barrel workshop has 26 attendees so far.

ii. Tree City/Birdtown

1. Ordinance Discussion

Mrs. Zadell went over the requirements for the Tree City Ordinance. She said the Doylestown Township ordinance is well written and we should use it as a starting point and revise it with the suggested changes and further comments by the committee. She suggested the EAC go to the Board with the reasons for the Ordinance before we go through the legal expense of drafting the Ordinance.

The committee will send their comments on the ordinance to Mr. Hutchinson by July 1st. Mr. Hutchinson will compile the information and present it in July.

iii. Watershed Friendly Property Program

iv. Renewable/Sustainable Energy

Mrs. Antoine researched Solarized Southeast PA (SSPA) and attended one of their meetings. She said this group helps homeowners use solar energy on their properties and advocate for solar use. It is a completely volunteer group. SSPA not only provides solar education, but they will help connect residents to solar companies, they will do a preliminary evaluation on your property, they will review proposals and give tips on saving on electric. Scott Lucas is a contact for additional information. Mrs. Antoine felt the meetings were not well organized, but it is a new group, and it was only their third meeting. They have a list of 6 vendors they recommend in exchange for money they receive for referrals. There is no measurable standards or vetting process for their vendors.

There was discussion on adding something about this group and the PECO energy program on the EAC website.

Bill Sabbe from Plymouth Township EAC contacted Mr. West regarding Ready for 100. He may be a future guest at a meeting. A discussion ensued about the commitment of Ready for 100 and what is the most important points to consider first.

5. New Business

The Partnership TMA event is on June 11 at the pavilion. This year's meeting is on all electric vehicles.

Mr. West will attend the meetings for the feasibility study of the Liberty Bell Trail.

6. Township Manager's Report

7. Adjournment

Mrs. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Antoine. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next Meeting July 7, 2021 @ 6 pm