

**East Pikeland Township  
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes  
February 24, 2022**

Present: Dennis Ray, Betsy Burns, Dr. Aparna Maddali, Keith Barnaby & Lynda Rebarchak

Absent: Paula Salanitro

Staff: Kim Moretti, Township Manager

Chairman Dennis Ray called the meeting to order at 7pm. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the February meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom application via telephone and the internet, and also in-person at the Township Building.

Betsy motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Lynda seconded, and the agenda was unanimously approved.

It was noted that the January meeting minutes incorrectly listed the Roadside Cleanup event as 4/28. Lynda will revise the minutes to show the correct date of 4/23. Betsy motioned to approve the January meeting minutes with the correction. Lynda seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Old Business**

1. Upcoming Events

- NCC-EAC virtual meeting was held on 2/21. Committees were set up across townships with experts in each group. Dennis is on the Energy committee, with Paula on the Waste Reduction committee.
- Statewide EAC virtual meeting is 2/26. Dennis encouraged all to register to attend the upcoming meeting. He will send the link to all who are available to participate.
- Roadside Cleanup, 4/23 at 9 am. The cleanup will be on the firehouse side of Rt 113, and coordinated with Parks & Rec.
- Guided Bird Walk, 5/7 at 9 am. Richard Wolf, the Valley Forge National Park bird expert will lead the event.

- Kim advised of an upcoming E-Waste event on 6/25 from 9 am-12 pm. East Pikeland Township will once again partner with Schuylkill Township on this event. EAC volunteers are needed.
- For the Clean Energy Transition Plan Update, Dennis mentioned an upcoming meeting with energy consultants on 3/5, to help assess what the township would like to do with its various facilities and equipment.

## **New Business**

### 1. Volunteer Candidates

- Dennis nominated Dr. Aparna Maddali to become an EAC member. Betsy motioned to approve, Lynda seconded the motion and all agreed.
- Dennis then nominated Keith Barnaby to become an EAC member. Betsy motioned to approve, Lynda seconded the motion and all agreed.
- Jade Neff was not present. Dennis mentioned that two other individuals are interested in joining the EAC as well.

### 2. Chester County Solid Waste Authority Grant Composting Workshop

- Dennis mentioned Keith's experience with composting, and asked Keith to lead the future workshop. Kim mentioned this was part of the Zero Waste Grant Program, and envisions a composter demonstration.

### 3. Home Grown National Park Discussion

- Betsy mentioned there may not be a fee for residents to join this effort, just for businesses. She feels we should highlight the efforts the township is making to return parks to meadow land, forrest and riparian buffers, to educate the public to use resources we already have. Then see what other townships are doing.
- Keith asked about the proper use of pesticides, and if green alternatives could be encouraged for lawns. Dennis advised that the NCC group is discussing this very subject, and encouraged Keith to join this effort. Betsy advised that products are out there, and would be a good small step for homeowners, making more of an impact with link to toxicity for children and pets.
- Kim suggested this may be a good item for the June newsletter.

- Dennis mentioned the subject of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) being discussed by some of the groups, and how they are being found in vegetables, animals and humans.

#### 4. Single Trash Hauler

- Dennis brought up the Single Trash Hauler issue, advising the new members this was a previously contentious topic with township residents. Should be looked at again, with the consolidation of waste haulers, and Schuylkill Township's recent efforts towards this goal. Need to approach slowly and carefully, getting information out to the public.
- Kim advised that the township is getting more hauler-related complaints from residents, and DEP is asking for citation information to take action where warranted. Although not all residents interested in weekly collection, a single hauler may be able to tailor the format to meet various needs.
- Keith asked what the advantages would be, and was told getting the large number of trash trucks off the road, improved service. Dennis suggests holding off until Michelle gets back. Kim will share information on a recent cost survey.

#### **Public Comment**

- There was a question on where to dispose of medications. Kim advised that medication can be disposed of at the Phoenixville Police Department as well as area drug stores.
- Township Supervisor Ron Graham mentioned an electric police vehicle coming next week, which will then need to be outfitted. Dennis mentioned that a fast charger should probably go in the police carport. Chargers are also located at the township building, Kimberton Whole Foods, and may be coming to the Westside complex. Aparna asked about chargers and power loss, and also following up on her questions at the January meeting on trees and solar panels. Dennis advised it is best to use rooftop panels without the need to remove trees.

The next meeting will be March 24 at 7 pm. Dennis advised he will be on vacation, but plans to call in.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.