

**East Pikeland Township  
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2022**

Present: Dennis Ray, Paula Salanitro, Betsy Burns, Aparna Maddali, & Lynda Rebarchak  
Staff: Michelle Rubin & Kim Moretti  
Guests: Don Szabo

Chairman Dennis Ray called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the March monthly meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom application via telephone and the internet, and also in-person at the Township Building.

Michelle requested that the Hidden River Tree Planting be added to the agenda. Betsy motioned to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Lynda seconded, and the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

Lynda motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. Betsy seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Old Business**

1. Upcoming Events

- Earth Day Road Clean Up, Saturday, April 23, 9am
  - The annual Earth Day Road Clean Up will focus on a portion of 113. Dennis and Lynda and their partners will be available to help with the clean up and Lynda will share with her community. Dennis reported that Chief Major will be there and provide an officer to support the cleanup. There will be a Public Works vehicle with lights as well.
- Hidden River Tree Planting, Saturday, April 30, 10am
  - Michelle reported that the Hidden River Tree Planting event is seeking volunteers to assist with the planting of 500 native trees and shrubs at the new park. This is the first step in creating this new park facility. Paula and Aparna will be able to attend.
- Guided Bird Walk, Saturday May 7, 9am
  - The walk will be led by Richard Wolf again this year.
- E-Waste Event, Saturday, June 25, 9am
  - We will partner with Schuylkill Township again to host an E-waste event for township residents. Both East Pikeland and Schuylkill EACs will provide volunteers. Lynda and Dennis are both available and will do the event in shifts.

2. Ready for 100 — Updates

- Clean Energy Transition Plan Update: Dennis reported that a meeting of township personnel was held and goals were discussed. Kim reported that the consultants working on the clean energy transition plan conducted an energy analysis of the Township Building which was helpful in determining the long-term plan for the building. The next big aspect will be community outreach and education.
- Michelle reported that the township had purchased their first EV police vehicle, a Tesla.

### 3. NCC EAC Meeting 2/26 Recap

- Dennis and Betsy both attended the meeting and reported that there were 100 other people in attendance. They listened to presentations from other municipalities on a variety of topics. Dennis specifically mentioned that the Township should consider evaluating older retention basins for function, and also suggested the EAC add non-voting associate members in order to expand the knowledge and volunteer base of the EAC.

### 4. Tree ID signs, French Creek Trail Update

- Michelle reported that the signs are made, but that Matt didn't want to hang them directly on trees for the overall health of the trees, so he will now work to make posts to hang the signs on along the trail.

### 5. Single Trash Hauler

- Dennis reported that Schuylkill Township is also considering a single trash hauler system and he will reach out to his counterparts there to determine the stage of their planning. Kim offered to seek out information amongst the other township managers that she knows.

## **New Business**

### 1. Volunteer Candidates

- Dr. Aparna Maddali and Keith Barnaby were both officially added to the EAC by the Board of Supervisors. There are currently two vacancies on the Board, and a few interested candidates not in attendance at the meeting. Michelle will reach out.

### 2. Compost Workshop Planning

- Dates need to be selected for the workshop, sometime this spring or summer. Michelle will reach out to the committee to confirm.

### 3. Chester County Solid Waste Authority Hazardous Waste Collection 4/9/22

- A hazardous waste collection event will take place at the Cat Pickering campus on April 9. Pre-registration is required. A list of what is accepted is available online.

### 4. Home Grown National Park Discussion

- Dennis suggested that the committee continue to consider this as an option in the future.

## **Public Comment**

Don Szabo, Township resident, approved of the Township looking at retention basins because if they aren't maintained properly they can get mosquitos and start to smell. He also offered his expertise to Matt to help with the French Creek Trail Tree ID sign posts, Michelle will ask Matt to reach out. In addition, he asked questions about the single trash hauler initiative.

Betsy announced that she is stepping back from the EAC due to other commitments. She is happy to come back and offer help when she can.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.