

**East Pikeland Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2020**

Present: Dennis Ray, Samantha Uyeno, Betsy Burns, Milissa Hirst, & Janet Burgoon

Absent: None

Guests: Lydna Rebarchak (potential volunteer) & Chris Brignola (resident)

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Meeting started at 7:05pm

Minutes from the February meeting were approved without changes.

Committee members gave brief updates and guests were introduced.

New Business

1. Kimberton Fair

- Michelle reported that she received a table request form for the Kimberton Fair. For the past two years the EAC has tabled at the fair and shared information about stormwater, Spotted Lanternfly, and more. Council members discussed their interest and decided to move forward with a table and will wait to hear about the status of the Fair this year. If the fair moves forward but committee members don't feel comfortable sitting at the table, they would support having a table with handouts but not manning it regularly.
 - Dennis asked Michelle to check to see if there's any new SLF info and have new handouts/update the website with the information.

2. Dog Park & Community Garden

- Michelle shared a plan for a dog park and community garden located at the intersection of Ridge Rd. and Hares Hill. The Township submitted a DCNR grant for the plan on Tuesday, April 21. She explained that while the EAC won't be involved in the maintenance of the garden, as that will fall under Park and Recreation's purview, there will be exciting opportunities for education on the property including gardening, bee keeping, rain gardens, native meadow and more.

3. EAC Conference Update

- The EAC Conference has been moved online and will take place May 2 and 3. It's now \$20 to register. Michelle encouraged all committee members to participate, and hand in a receipt for reimbursement. Members who attend will report back at the May EAC meeting.

Old Business

1. Ready for 100

- Solar Energy—SolSmart. Dennis encouraged the EAC to recommend that the Township join this free service that will help to educate the township and move us towards solar energy. Committee members approved the recommendation unanimously. Dennis will write up a list of benefits for joining and send them to Michelle who will create a memo to the Board.
- Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Dennis shared information on the energy star group which evaluates buildings for energy usage. He explained that the Township should eventually join after a recommendation from the EAC, but that we aren't there yet.

- Vision Partnership Grant: Dennis updated the committee on this grant that is due in August. There is a group of people working to pull local municipalities together to go in on the grant as one unit to make it more competitive. Mark Connelley has offered to write the grant. The committee held a discussion on what the grant application would be for exactly. Essentially, it will be to help municipalities flesh out their plans to move forward with Ready for 100.
 - Along with this plan is a power purchase agreement. Dennis explained that in order to put a group together we would have to get municipalities with different sizes. Because East Pikeland is smaller, we are less attractive to energy companies, so we will need to form a group large enough to be competitive. Michelle informed the committee that the Township's current PPA runs out at the end of December.
 - Renewable Energy Transition Draft—this document was shared with the committee. All members are encouraged to read the document and make notes on things that should be added or changed in regards to our Township and community.
2. Recycling Education
 - No updates
 3. Stormwater
 - The project at the park is on hold, no other updates
 4. Single Trash Hauler
 - No Updates
 5. Bird Walk 4/18--Cancelled
 - All spring EAC events have been cancelled due to COVID-19. The committee will continue to monitor the situation throughout the year and wait to determine fall events and other activities at a later date.
 6. Hares Hill Rd. Clean Up--Cancelled
 7. Spotted lanternfly--Cancelled
 - Janet will look into whether there are online education options available that the Township could share with residents.

Public Comment

Chris Brignola shared information on the Chester County Intermediate Unit's cooperative purchasing board, which is made up of a dozen municipalities. The EAC could connect with this Board about a Power Purchase Agreement. Chris also commented that the dog park plan looks like an exciting opportunity and it's nice to see the Township moving forward with it. He also asked questions about curb side yard waste recycling as he's been told by Diamond Waste that they are not allowed to collect Yard Waste in East Pikeland. Michelle explained that there is confusion there—they can collect yard waste on stipulated days, but are not legally allowed to treat yard waste like trash. She will reach out to Diamond Waste to try to explain the difference to them.

Adjourned at 8:12pm.