

**RADNOR TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MINUTES

The January meeting of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to order by Josh Hilbert at 6:00 P.M. on January 22, 2015 at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, Radnorshire Room, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Those present were:

Josh Hilbert, Chairperson
Sloan Walker, Vice Chairperson
Anne Poulin
Skip Kunda, Planning Commission Representative
Chris Campbell, Parks and Rec Dept Representative
Sally Mattison
Daniel Meier

Those not present were:

Stephen Elliot

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hilbert called the group to order.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2014 MINUTES

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the October 23, 2014 EAC meeting were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hilbert made the following announcements about upcoming local events:

Chester County Citizens for Climate Protection

Invites You to Join Us On Wednesday February 11, 2015 at 7:00 PM At the West Chester, PA Borough Hall 401 East Gay Street Room 240 To Participate in Our Program: "The Merits of Waste Oil As Fuel"

Burning a gallon of biofuel, compared to a gallon of fossil-based diesel, generates CO₂ that was already part of the natural carbon cycle. It produces no sulfur emissions, 26 percent less Carbon Monoxide and 39% less particulate matter. To date the oil recycling effort has eliminated emissions comparable to more than 2,000 cars annually.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Extends Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program

The Department of Environmental Protection announced the extension of the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate program, which will continue to provide \$2,000 rebates for large-

battery system plug-in hybrid electric and battery-electric vehicles until June 30, 2015, or until the 500-vehicle benchmark is reached. To date, DEP has more than 150 rebates remaining at this amount.

Large-battery vehicles that have battery system capacities equal or greater than 10 kilowatt hours are eligible for the highest rebate amount of \$2,000. DEP is also extending rebates of \$1,000 for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and battery-electric vehicles with battery system capacities of less than 10 kWh.

DVGBC: Tri-State Sustainability Symposium at Temple University: Fri, 03/06/2015 - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Now in its fifth year, this day-long symposium brings together industry, university and community leaders to share best practices, ask challenging questions, and provide cutting edge information about sustainability in the PA/DE/NJ Tri-State region. This event, to be held at Temple University, will draw over 800 attendees and will feature sessions covering diverse topics such as Net Zero, water conservation, green leasing, commercial real estate, art and sustainability, renewable energy, ENERGY STAR, LEED v4 and more.

The New York Times ranked the city No. 3 on its “52 Places to Go in 2015,” behind only by Milan, Italy and Cuba.

The sweep of the Schuylkill River, the skyline crowning it, and the Schuylkill “boardwalk” that literally beckons from the South Street Bridge to walk on water, have combined to transform Philadelphia into a must-see destination in the world. And PEC helped to bring about this transformation! PEC promoted greenway and trail planning in support of the Pennsylvania DCNR’s statewide efforts. No place else signifies greater success in implementing those visions than Philadelphia and its neighbors, especially Chester and Montgomery counties. It’s no surprise that the common denominator of those three counties is the Schuylkill River Trail. The first long distance multi-use trail in this region (with a few irritating gaps) connects Center City to Valley Forge National Historical Park and far beyond. This achievement inspired lots of additional trails most notably the Perkiomen Trail (Montco) and the Chester Valley Trail (Chesco) among others.

IKEA – Plymouth Meeting: Accepts used compact fluorescent lamps

Radnor Memorial Library: Kathy Mulroy told Sally that she just got notice last week that the state is awarding the township a grant of \$500K for the library project. The township will match that \$500K, and the library will put in another \$250K that it has raised itself, for a total of \$1.25 million. This money will go to a new HVAC system, an elevator, and making the bathrooms ADA compliant. So now, plans for the whole renovation project will go forward -- they are still looking to raise an additional \$1 million for the entire project (to include the additions and the revamp of the interior).

Backyard Bird Count – Program at Radnor Library on January 31, 2015

WREN Grant Rain Garden Workshop – Radnor Library on March 14, 2015.

WREN Grant Rain Garden Planting – Radnor Township Building on April 25, 2015.

WORKGROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Radnor Green Team – Comments on Electric Purchasing RFP

Mr. Walker made the following comments. The Green Power Purchasing initiative has been somewhat stalled. The Township received bids from Constellation and Groundswell. The Township is looking to move forward but needs BOC approval and is trying to get on the February BOC meeting agenda. All power purchased by the Township is to be provided by 100% wind power (National Wind). The use of renewable energy is one of the biggest goals of the EAC's GHG Reduction Plan. Mr. Walker stated that this purchase would be a good first step but his hope is that in the future the power will be provided by local sources such as solar power. The switch to the renewable energy will save the Township \$10-15k per year. Mr. Walker suggested that perhaps the savings could be invested in solar panels and/or other energy improvements. Mr. Kunda asked if there might be geothermal opportunities for Township buildings. Mr. Walker mentioned the greening of the Township fleet and that the fleet now has three hybrid vehicles.

WREN Grant

(The upcoming rain garden workshop and planting dates were mentioned during the announcement section of the meeting.)

Greenways and Open Space

Ms. Poulin indicated that there was no report and that the item can be removed from the agenda for the time being.

Community Environmental Education/Awareness

No items were reported.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Kunda noted that there was no meeting in January but there should be a significant meeting in February, including discussion of the proposed Villanova development.

Mr. Campbell of the Parks and Rec Board announced that there was a leadership change at the January meeting with Andy Santello as Chairman, Chris Campbell as Vice Chairman. There is one opening on the board. The board recommended to the BOC that up to 3 cell towers in up to 3 parks should be permitted. The benefits include income and improved reception. The board believes that if Radnor does not accept the towers, an adjoining municipality will. The board has received a \$250k grant to implement the Clem Macrone Master Plan which will constitute a complete revitalization of the park. A second grant for \$500k was pursued. Mr. Sloan asked if any efforts have been made to clean up the algae in the Fenimore Woods pond. Mr. Campbell indicated he would put Mr. Walker in touch with the park board member responsible for that park. Mr. Sloan asked about the status of the Ardrossan open space development. Mr. Campbell indicated that the plan is that most of the area will remain as open space with some trails. There is no immediate schedule for the development but the park board will be involved. Mr. Hilbert stated that rotate representatives from the park board to the EAC meetings on a monthly basis.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resident Mark Wright made a presentation to the EAC. Mr. Wright had approached Jim Higgins of the BOC to request that the Township adopt a resolution to ask the state to create a carbon emission reduction plan that exceeds the EPA plan requirements. Power plants have limits for lead and arsenic but there is no national regulation for carbon emissions. Pennsylvania is one of the three big emitters of carbon. Other states are using better power plant technology. The EPA requires that each state come up with its own reduction plan. Pennsylvania is required to follow the EPA mandate, but is “pushing it down the road.” The purpose of the resolution would be to direct the state to develop the reduction plan now. The EPA plan was adopted last year. The resolution would recommend to meet at least the 32% reduction or do better. The EPA plan does not have a timetable. The public comment period expired in December 2014. Mr. Knight believes a resolution from Radnor would help even though the public comment deadline has passed. Several nearby municipalities have adopted similar resolutions: Swarthmore, Jenkintown, Bethlehem, York, Lancaster County. Mr. Hilbert state that the EAC is focused on local issues and questions whether the EAC can request a resolution to press for a state action. He believes that someone needs to approach the BOC with passion, knowledge, and having the facts straight. Mr. Walker offered to work with Mr. Knight on the resolution wording. Mr. Hilbert stated that an extra “whereas” should be added to the resolution indicating that the state is stalling on implementing a reduction plan. Mr. Walker asked if the state is mandated to comply. Mr. Knight indicated that the state is required to develop the plan but that the EPA can step in. Mr. Knight is willing to meet with the BOC. He indicated that most municipal resolutions line up with the provided sample resolution from the City of York. Mr. Kunda asked if there are any other documents or visual aids that would be helpful in making the case to the BOC. Mr. Hilbert indicated that several EAC members have concerns about the sample resolution wording, especially the statements that link specific weather events and disease outbreaks to climate change. Mr. Campbell felt the sample resolution was short on facts. Mr. Walker agreed, indicating that more information is needed on the EPA plan. Mr. Hilbert indicated that Mr. Knight should prepare the resolution and present it to Mr. Higgins of the BOC. Mr. Knight agreed to do so. Mr. Walker indicated that the EAC will provide questions to Mr. Knight that the EAC feel need to be answered.

Mr. Hilbert stated that Leo Bernabei of the Radnor Township School District has asked the EAC to review the 2008 EAC findings regarding environmental concerns or lack thereof about synthetic turf fields. The 2008 meeting minutes were presented to the school board as part of a discussion about the further addition of turf fields at the high school. Mr. Campbell indicated that the request to review the findings may be related to the possible replacement of the existing turf field but he is not sure if Mr. Bernabei is asking about the high school, some other project, or turf fields in general. Mr. Hilbert read the first two paragraphs and the conclusion of the 2008 findings. He indicated that since 2007, more articles have been written about turf fields. The EPA did a study before 2008 but found no issues with the synthetic fields. However, since then, the EPA may have softened their stance because the original study was not flawed but had a narrow focus on a few fields and a few types of infill material. The original report can be found on the EPA website. Regarding a path forward on this issue, Mr. Walker suggested that the EAC make an effort to see if there is an update on the EPA study and if there are new studies since

2008. He stated that the EAC should make it publicly known that the EAC is revisiting this issue and invite public comment. Mr. Meier stated that the public notice should indicate that the EAC will only be addressing environmental issues and not potential health issues. Mr. Walker stated that he thought the public should be permitted to raise health concerns. Ms. Poulin disagreed, indicating that the field construction will need Township approval so there will be other opportunities for public comment. Mr. Kunda agreed with Ms. Poulin. Mr. Hilbert indicated that he will ask Mr. Bernabei if other Township entities are looking at this issue and why the review of the findings is being requested.

Mr. Hilbert suggested that the EAC should develop an easy guide for residents on how to recycle various household items. He indicated this will take some effort and should be updated quarterly on the EAC website. There was discussion that the website should be updated after every EAC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made and seconded, the meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Meier