

**Members in Attendance:** Grant Alger, Steven Nelson (via Zoom), George Mullikin, P.R. West, David Riedel, Dan Ford, Building and Zoning Director Karyn Hyland, and Councilmember Wendy Margolis

**1. Call to Order:** 6:31 pm

**2. Approval of Minutes March 21, 2023:** Minutes were approved as corrected.

**3. Earth Day:** Grant provided an update for the Earth Day table at the Farmer's Market. We will have Bird Town, LCAP, and Single-Use Plastics information available. There is a box of reusable bags that can be handed out. We will be set up at the corner of State and Hamilton. Karyn reported there will be a table and chairs with some bins of supplies that we will have access to. Steve will be available to distribute posters to businesses on the day of the Farmer's Market. Steve would like a letter or email to be given to businesses while he is distributing the posters. He would also like to know if there is a list of higher priority businesses which are most likely to be covered under the ordinance.

#### **4. Reports**

**a. LCAP (George and Steve):** The EAC has been working with Joe Thompson, a Penn State student over the last two semesters. This semester Joe has been working on community outreach, website content, and more climate action plans. Grant says we are getting closer but there is more feedback to give to him. He is due to give us a presentation at our May meeting. Steve added that Joe will be giving a fair amount of useful information that we will be able to build upon. Policy decisions will not be made by Joe. Penn State is overseeing the program and recommends a steering committee. There are upcoming opportunities with the Comprehensive Plan workshops to find more like-minded people to volunteer for the steering committee.

**b. Farmer's Market (Karen):** No report

**c. Bird Town (Grant):** Bird Town monthly Birders meeting was held. They discussed the growth of the organization. Bird-a-Thon will be happening on May 6 to count birds. Grant would like to discuss raising awareness of how light can affect migratory bird patterns. This is something that could take place in August before the Fall migration. Bird Town designation will need to be renewed annually. There are 6 categories which would require action on our part, most of which we are already doing, to remain a designated Bird Town in addition to the annual renewal. The EAC will consider whether the Borough should seek other, property-specific, habitat certifications.

**e. Comprehensive Plan Update (Steve):** All members of the EAC were present at the last workshop apart from Dan. Topics discussed included sustainability and conservation. The meeting was very well attended by members of the community. A lot of ideas were shared. Scale of development was a topic that came up in each group. Karyn added the two workshops were at a higher altitude, and everyone was encouraged to come and say whatever they felt needed to be said. Now that we can narrow down and refine groups, we can really focus on the 6 or 7 final land use topics. A date has not been decided as of right now, but we are hoping for a Saturday at the request of both the

public and various boards.

**5. Old/New Business:** Steve had an update on the discussion to add solar to Borough Hall. We had discussed how the EAC could help find funding for solar panels for the Borough Hall. There is money made available from the Federal government. Steve thinks it is important to find the money to put solar panels on Borough Hall. Steve reached out to Phil Ehlinger and is waiting to hear back from him. Karyn will check in with Phil. George would like to know if there is an interest as an EAC in taking additional steps to research the process of switching to solar. Steve does not believe this is necessary currently. Phil has all the deadline information and applicable links for the program.

George asked Karyn to share an update with the potential sale of Linden Elementary School site. Karyn let the EAC know it's two-fold. It should absolutely be considered as a part of the Comp Plan. There is a requirement in the municipalities planning code that when a school district sells a piece of real estate, the County Planning Commission weighs in on how it affects the bigger picture. Having this in our comp plan, it will add additional fodder for the County Planning Commission to weigh in on. It is worthy of conversation with our Planning Commission. The Borough Council passed a resolution to see the study results and to see whether the district has considered the true census data and how the increase in development in the Borough may change the scales of the population at Linden. Upon request by Borough Council, the EAC will weigh in on land use decisions.

P.R. wanted to talk about the plastic water bottles that were offered to the public at the Comprehensive Plan workshops. Karyn was aware of the concern, however, there was no other alternative that was appropriate, such as open cups or something along those lines. Wendy suggested the DMail to announce the next meeting include a line about people bringing their own reusable water bottles.

**6. Adjournment:** There being no further topics to discuss, Steve made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Erika Fellman