

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Attendance: George Mullikin, Kristin Winters, PR West, Grant Alger, Karen Graziano (via Zoom), Karyn Hyland (Borough Staff), Wendy Margolis (Borough Council)

- 1) **Call to order:** George M. called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.
- 2) **Approval of minutes (October 18, 2022):** The minutes were approved by common consent.
- 3) **Carry-Out Bag Ordinance - Web Page and Business Resources:**
 - a) P.R. W. put together a FAQ sheet.
 - b) Karyn H. prepared a Use and Occupancy document. This is for, among others, new businesses, to let them know about the ordinance. It's important to keep it as simple as possible, since new businesses are dealing with a lot of info. The dates listed (which can be changed) are based on an assumption that the ordinance will be passed by Council in December. New businesses are not eligible for an extension, just existing businesses; this is written into the ordinance. The word "consider" will be changed to "note" or something similar to make it stronger.
 - c) Grant A. added some items to the webpage (FAQ, timeline, link to the ordinance, and signage info).
 - d) The group discussed graphics for signage, which will be included in a template available to businesses. We worked on graphics before that could be updated.
 - e) Karen G. asked if we could communicate our timeline to local media; Karyn H. agreed that sending out some simple reminders will be helpful. Announcements to be sent will include when the ordinance is passed (with timeline and deadline for extension requests), one week ahead of the signage deadline, and one month ahead of when plastic bags are no longer allowed.
 - f) The Farmers Market will need info. Karen G. communicates with them regularly. Karyn H. said Discover Doylestown (responsible for the Arts Fest) has been at meetings and is aware of the ordinance.
 - g) Karen G. asked if we could use our budget to make reusable bags to have them available for events. The group agreed this would be an idea to explore; Karen G. said she'll look into it and how much it would cost. Wendy M. said there are some smaller muslin-type bags that might be affordable and appropriate for this use. Karen G. will research bags and Karyn H. will review our budget.
 - h) Steve N. asked if it would be helpful for some of us to be at the Council meeting. Wendy M. said she feels we have a lot of support, but we would always be welcome so anyone who wants to attend should do so.
 - i) The group reviewed the Doylestown Ditches Disposables logo and the EAC logo. The DDD logo may be the more appropriate for printing on bags; we'll continue to discuss.
 - j) The person (Paul) who updates and formats the website for the Borough is prepared to do some updates. Grant A. will develop content to provide to him, and has already developed much of it.

The Media, PA website is helpful. Grant A. will have more info put together by our December meeting. P.R. W.'s FAQ will be included in some form.

- k) The group reviewed what is currently on the website. Much of what is on there can remain for now, but the note that there will be a fee should be removed now. Grant A. will edit and condense the document in general and include some updated info. There is enough info on this page that we may want to make it its own page as a link from the Environmental Issues page. It could also go under another section on the website; we'll discuss. We could link to a separate page within the plastics page to get to the resources, or at least simplify the way the resources are listed. We can have a paragraph with a link on the Environmental Issues page, and a link (the same) listed on the left on the same page.
- l) We need someone to create a sign template. Paul or Joe Wallace could potentially do this; we will get a quote. Karyn H. will contact Paul, and George M. will contact Joe.

4) Reports

- a) **Farmer's Market:** Karen G. reported the booth (Master Gardeners/EAC/BirdTown) will start in April. This will be a good opportunity to have signage and bags. We can use the EAC logo.
- b) **Outreach and Communication:** Grant A. discussed this above.
- c) **Bird Town:** Kristin W. reported no updates since the last report.
- d) **Comprehensive Plan:** Steve N. reported the survey has been completed (sent out and responses received). The next meeting is Dec. 13 at 7:30; Steve N. and Kristin W. will be there, and anyone else who is interested can attend as well. At the September meeting the Bucks Co. Planning Commission said if there is anything specific to look into, to let them know. Steve N. noted that stormwater management is an issue that should be carefully reviewed for the comp plan. Wendy M. was at a meeting recently where it was discussed and Karyn H. has shown them where there are stormwater issues in the Borough, so they are familiar with the issues. If there are other issues requiring special attention we can bring them to the Planning Commission's attention as well as the attention of Staff, Council, and other Borough gov't entities. Jan - March are 3 workshop meetings. Karyn H. said there were 800+ survey responses, mostly (90+%) from residents, and others from people with some connection to the Borough. The comment bubbles were utilized. We hope the survey results will be provided at the December meeting; this will be a content heavy meeting and hopefully they will get through all of the info without having to spill into January. Steve N. reiterated that we should note before the next meeting (12/13) anything we feel is important. One issue that has come up - how Borough trash/recycling could be improved - has been discussed many times in the Borough; the Planning Commission is aware of it and it was on the survey.
- e) **LCAP:** George M. and Steve N. have been meeting regularly with Joe Thompson, the Penn State student. He has completed the greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the Borough; it includes utility data, transportation data, and other data. He will present the data to the EAC virtually at the next EAC meeting on Dec. 20. The presentation will be a kickoff for the next semester, which will involve putting together a plan and recommendations. The EAC will work to decide what we want the community outreach to look like; this can be part of the discussion in December. The next semester will require more EAC input and legwork.

5) Old/New Business:

- a) Steve N. noted the importance of updates re: the PFAS study. There is a page on the website and updates are provided via Dmail through the Water Committee on Council.
- b) Lindsey T. is not renewing her term on the EAC at the end of this year. Karyn H. said a vacancies meeting is taking place now as it does this time each year, so her spot will be

advertised and interviews will take place early in 2023. Kristin W. is also vacating her position. Both positions will probably be filled no earlier than February 2023.

- c) George M. noted it might be good to review the goals for the group at the December meeting then update them by the following month.

6) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 7:34 pm.

Next meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 5:30 pm.