

# Borough of Doylestown

## Environmental Advisory Council

### Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Attendance: Steve Nelson, Karen Graziano, George Mullikin, Grant Alger, Faran Savitz (PennEnvironment), Karyn Hyland (Borough Staff), Wendy Margolis (Borough Council), Dennis Livrone (Borough Council)

Kristin Winters viewed the meeting recording.

- 1) **Call to order:** George M. called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.
- 2) **Approval of minutes (July 19, 2022):** The minutes were approved by common consent.
- 3) **Single-Use Plastics Outreach:** George M. welcomed Faran S. to the meeting and invited him to participate in our public meeting on 9/20; Faran S. accepted. Steve N. proposed that the agenda be re-ordered so the group and Faran S. could discuss the meeting presentation first; the group approved.
  - a) **Meeting Presentation and Management:**
    - i) Wendy M. asked Faran S. if there is an existing map of PA ordinances; there is not, so Wendy M. will create a map.
    - ii) Steve N. reviewed the outline of the meeting presentation and a draft agenda.
    - iii) George M. will open the meeting, outline the general procedure of the meeting for attendees, and introduce the members of the EAC and Council attendees. He will also introduce Faran S.
    - iv) For the “The Problem with Plastics” slide Steve N. focused on plastic bags. Faran S. has general statistics and can help us obtain statistics for this section specifically estimating Doylestown’s plastic bag usage. He also has info re: microplastics in local waterways. It is good to keep this info local and relatable, and also to show what other municipalities are doing. Faran S. will present this section of the meeting (10 minutes max).
    - v) It is possible that most of the attendees may be businesses, so it will be important to be ready to discuss the specifics of the ordinance and what will be expected of businesses. Faran S. in his part of the presentation will include some info about how businesses in other municipalities have handled these changes; the municipality map will be shown during this discussion.
    - vi) While discussing the “EAC Actions” slide, the group discussed the \$0.15 fee. Faran S. said currently this is the highest fee charged by any municipality in PA; he would recommend going no lower than \$0.10, and said we could charge more than \$0.15. Karyn H. noted that businesses may want a higher fee in the ordinance to give them more room to cover costs. Faran S. added that a higher fee provides more incentive for consumers to request fewer bags, an environmental benefit. George M. will present this section at the meeting.
    - vii) On the “Proposed Ordinance” slide the group noted that the first point should be who will be affected by the ordinance. This slide should cover *who*, *what*, and *when*. Info will be

included to note that the structure for the ordinance is a ban/fee hybrid. Faran S. added it would be helpful to clarify that the bags banned by the ordinance are the bags provided at the point of sale (checkout); this will help consumers and businesses visualize which bags are banned and which are still allowed. He suggested and the group agreed to break down the “what it does” section to specifically explain which bags are allowed and which are not. Grant A. will present this section at the meeting.

- viii) The title of the second “Proposed Ordinance” slide will be changed to “Process” or something similar. A bullet noting that public input is part of the process will be included. Karyn H. will present this section at the meeting.
  - ix) The last slide will be “Q & A”. George M. will moderate this section. We will encourage attendees to hold their questions until this section. Attendees with questions should come to the microphone and introduce themselves (name and resident or business). The microphone can also be brought to people with questions.
  - x) Faran S. can bring some examples of plastic bags. Karen G. and George M. will make sure we have some bag examples.
  - xi) We will meet with Environment and Recreation on 9/1 to review the presentation with them. Faran S. does not need to attend this meeting. He will send his slides to Grant A. and George M. so they can be included with the other slides.
  - xii) Faran S. noted that every meeting he’s done like this has brought up different questions, so we should be prepared for anything.
  - xiii) The meeting will be from 7 pm to 9 pm. George M. as moderator can gauge and adjust the progress of the meeting as we come up on the time limit.
  - xiv) The meeting will not be streamed online. Karyn H. will look into whether we can record the audio of the meeting.
  - xv) Karen G. will manage the final layout of the presentation and will put it into PowerPoint. Karyn H. will control the slides during the presentation; whoever is presenting should say “next slide”. The final version of the presentation should be ready by 8/26 for the 9/1 Environment and Recreation meeting.
  - xvi) If anyone asks what the next steps are, we will say that we heard the input from the public and will share it with Environment and Recreation as they discuss their recommendation to Council.
- b) Press Release:** Karyn H. will send a letter to Patch and the Herald.
- c) Social Media, DMail, and Website Announcement:** Karyn H. will edit the announcement as needed and make sure it is sent through these channels. The language will be cleaned up to keep it consistent with the presentation and ordinance.
- d) Website Educational Component:** Grant A. updated the language to be included on the website to describe what the EAC has done, research, and additional resources. Wendy M. also edited this info. A link to the draft copy of the ordinance will be added now. More info will be added in the future.
- e) Additional Outreach:** Some businesses have been identified that will likely support the ordinance; Wendy M. and Karyn H. said they are looking at the business list to help determine if there are any who could be asked to attend the meeting, and EAC members can notify them if they think of any who would be helpful. The Mayor and at least one Council member are planning to meet with the Merchants’ Association. The Farmers Market will be sent a “Dear Businessperson” letter or an email. Discover Doylestown should be contacted after the Arts Festival. Heidi Shiver (BirdTown and Doylestown Township EAC) will be contacted to see if she would like to attend the public meeting to show support. The “Dear Businessperson” letter will be mailed next week. Grant A. provided a few edits to the letter.

#### **4) Old/New Business**

- a) Comprehensive Plan:** Steve N. summarized the meeting from last week. The survey was the main focus of the meeting; it will be finalized at the 9/13 meeting and released in October. The survey will be online; there was some discussion about how to make it available to anyone who does not have a computer. Branding was also discussed. Steve N. noted that he and another member asked for more specific examples re: climate change to be included in the Sustainability and Conservation section on the survey.
- b) Farmers Market:** Karen G. noted that we had discussed having info at the market about the plastics ordinance. The group agreed that we will share info with market visitors in the spring after the ordinance has been adopted during the 180 days before it goes into effect.
- c) EAC Membership and Meetings:** George M. will reach out to Lindsay T. to discuss her availability to continue to serve on the EAC. We may move our meetings in the future to a later time; this will be discussed at the October meeting.

**5) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 7:47 pm.

**Next meeting:** The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 7:00 pm.