

Members in Attendance: Grant Alger, Steven Nelson, P.R. West, Karen Graziano, Dan Ford, Building and Zoning Director Karyn Hyland, and Councilmember Dennis Livrone

1. Call to Order: 6:33 pm

2. Approval of Minutes April 18, 2023: Minutes were approved as submitted.

3. LCAP Presentation Steve introduced Joe Thompson, a Penn State senior who has been working with the Borough's EAC for two semesters on a Local Climate Action Plan for the Borough, and his professor, Brandi Robinson.

Joe gave a final presentation that included potential actions, forecast of greenhouse gas emissions with a couple of target numbers, suggested draft plan with potential actions. The plan presented by Joe will be distributed to the EAC. A steering committee will be created to take Joe's plan and be tailored to work for the Borough.

Joe presented a template action plan the Borough can use in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan to help reduce emissions and lower dependence on fossil fuels. Joe's top three actions the Borough could take in the short term that are most easily attainable include energy efficiency improvements at a residential level (changing faucets to low flow fixtures, checking insulation levels, etc.), expansion of bike lanes and walkability throughout the Borough, and to add solar arrays to commercial and industrial buildings or source energy from other renewable resources.

4. Reports

a. LCAP (Steve): Steve, George, and P.R. are recruiting members for the Steering Committee at Comprehensive Plan meetings. The first meeting may have an overview of where the EAC currently is with their LCAP. They would like to set goals and discuss community engagement. The Planning Commission is having workshops for the Comprehensive Plan, too, that may give us ideas to incorporate into the LCAP. The LCAP will have a more specific action plan compared to the broader scope of the Comprehensive Plan.

Steve recommended the EAC consider working with another program where another college-level undergraduate student works with expanding the LCAP through DEP's Capstone program. There are 30 colleges across the state participating in the program. Steve recommends we engage with the Capstone. The student may be able to help with community outreach, do grant research, work on modeling and forecasting. Those three tasks could take the entire semester. The student could do research that will help us find feasible actions that will work with our LCAP.

There will need to be public meetings held too during the LCAP adoption process to get community feedback. This plan will be very focused on public education due to limitations on regulatory authority. Steve would like an email sent from the Chair of the EAC to the program director with a detailed list of items we would like to focus on. This will be a quick process since the student(s) we are assigned will need to happen quickly since they will be starting classes in the Fall. If the EAC is ok with this, Steve will ask George to draft and send an email to the DEP. There is no objection from the EAC members who are present.

b. Farmer's Market (Karen): Karen asked for feedback on Earth Day and the single use plastic bag ordinance. The members filled her in on various interactions they had during the Farmer's Market and Earth Day. Dan offered suggestions on how they could have even more engagement with the community during the Farmer's Market. People appreciated the free reusable bags and Dan suggested the EAC pick a day to go as a group and distribute more during the Farmer's Market hours.

c. Bird Town (Grant): There is now an activity tracking spreadsheet on the EAC google drive. Grant filled in the goals and left space for other activities members have participated in. There is space for people to add in other activities, actions, and ideas. One additional idea that was brought up and discussed was a native plant give away.

Grant mentioned how the Justice Center is doing a bird strike survey each morning. There have been several unusual bird species documented on the ground after flying into the building. This may be something that could be related to the Dark Skies ordinance the Environment and Rec Committee is developing. Grant is curious if there is something they can do or someone they can write to, to ask the County to turn off the lights in the Justice Center at night.

e. Comprehensive Plan Update (Steve and Karyn): There is a meeting on Saturday, May 20 at 9:00 am. The hope is to get a little more focused on what will be discussed. It will be the job of the BCPC to steer the focus groups if they go off track. The workshops are meant to develop focus groups and the members of the group are committing to specific topics. These are the topics that will continue because of the surveys and previous meetings results. One group will be taking a walk at the end of the meeting to see some of the points of interest. There is a sign-up genius to pick which focus group people would like to participate in.

5. Old/New Business: Steve brought up another DEP program that the EAC may like to consider. It is called Shared Energy Manager which connects the Borough with an engineering company to evaluate solar feasibility with residential properties. This may be something to help the Borough with the next step.

6. Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Erika Fellman
Minutes Secretary