

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Attendance: Joe Wallace, Mike Moscherosch, Adam Howell, Karyn Hyland, Kristin Winters, George Mullikin, Steve Rubenstein

1) Call to Order: Mike M. called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

2) Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as written.

3) Old Business:

Trash Hauler Update

- Both Mike M. and Kristin W. had good results when calling their assigned trash haulers, but Joe W. and Adam H. sent several emails and left several messages with little response.
- Mike M. reported that when he called Waste Management (after having researched some info online first), he spoke to a woman who was very helpful in providing him with as much information as possible. She didn't know some of the more detailed info like how much of the trash goes to landfill. All of the company's trucks are natural gas powered. They are offering to collect composting in the borough - they will take compostables that are put out in a brown bag with the garbage, and it will be separated locally, then composted at a local facility.
- George M. had a conversation with a woman at Enviro Green. It sounds like this company is locally based in Horsham. He is trying to reach someone at a higher level for more information. Kristin W. reached a helpful person at Advanced Disposal and will be contacting corporate for more details. Mike M. will also follow up to get more information.
- Mike M. noted that on the Whitetail and Leck websites the companies claim that they are landfill free – everything going to an incinerator.
- Karyn H. brought up some issues that residents have been having with Republic. The rates for trash haulers were removed from the Borough info and rest of the already existing trash hauler info was sent out to residents today. Republic's rates increased and they are charging residents to pick up their containers. The Borough is directing residents to the County so the County can collect all of the info together about this issue. The Borough wanted residents to know that they're aware of the issue.
- The group discussed that Republic is claiming that the rate increase is due to increased recycling costs, since it is difficult to find anyone to take the recycling. The group discussed that with more convenient recycling (e.g. single stream), people tend to put too much in the recycling bin, and the recycleables can contain up to 15-20% contaminants. This causes problems such as issues with the machinery. Some people are now advising that if you're not sure whether to recycle something, don't recycle it.
- Mike M. and Karyn H. both noted that the value of recyclables has decreased and this affects the cost to customers. Steve R. mentioned that recently he spoke to someone on a plane whose job is to find places that will accept recycling.
- Mike M. also noted that the price of plastic recycling is driven by oil prices (low oil prices = decreased recycling). A lot of plastic ends up in waste to energy plants.

- Mike M. asked how we'd like to arrange this info; the group agreed that the column format Mike M. created works well. We should continue to upload our info into Google Drive so we have it in one place, then Karyn H. will upload it onto the Borough website to be shared with residents. Everyone's info should be in by next meeting so we can finalize it. It was decided that we won't include rates, since they seem to be too changeable. Mike M. suggested and the group agreed that we should include each company's 1-800/customer service number in the info as well.
- Joe W. mentioned a local compost collector who has recently been at the farm market. Joe W. has been using his services. The collector, who has a farm, picks up people's compostables 1 x week for \$30 per month. The collector would like to speak to us. The group agreed this would be beneficial, and Joe W. said he will see if he can come speak to us for 15-20 minutes at the next meeting. Mike M. suggested we could include him on the trash hauler's list as a composter; Joe W. will try to get as much of his info on the list as possible before the next meeting.

Mosquito spraying

- Mike M. and Karyn H. reported no input from the public on this year's mosquito spraying. The group discussed that hopefully this means that education has been helping

Basin Walk Maintenance Recommendations

- Kristin W. will get the finalized recommendations to Karyn H. by next week.

Greening Borough Businesses

- Adam H. mentioned that there are cities and towns that have implemented green practices, particularly for straws, plastic bags, and Styrofoam. He would like our group to address the use of plastic bags. Karyn H. encouraged him to bring technical information and case studies from other successful programs if the group wants to discuss this. The group discussed that our government and infrastructure model may make a ban difficult, but there may be some good opportunities for educating residents about reducing plastic bag use and recycling plastic bags when possible.
- The group discussed that we want to encourage businesses to follow green practices. While some individual corporations have made green choices (e.g. Starbucks stopping use of plastic straws), the Borough typically does not interfere with business operations. However, we can provide incentives.
- Previously we've had many discussions about how to encourage restaurants (and perhaps other businesses) to use green practices. Our group has not yet come up with a cohesive vision and plan, but the group discussed a new idea to make a list of green practices, ask restaurants if they are doing them, and then publicize just the "yes" answers to avoid showing favoritism or comparing the restaurants to each other. This could be applied to other businesses as well. Steve R. brought up the idea of encouraging residents to avoid using plastic water bottles; the group agreed that this could be another education piece.

4) New business

Spotted lanternfly

- Karyn H. said that our group has been tasked with figuring out how to put together a set of info for residents about what the spotted lanternfly quarantine means, what residents should do when they see a spotted lanternfly, etc. A lot of people see the quarantine signs and don't know what it means. The Borough has been getting calls from residents who find a spotted lanternfly and don't know what to do with it. There is a lot of misinformation, so we'd like to inform people. This should probably be just a one-page document. If we use a preexisting source we just need to give the source proper credit.
- Kristin W. will forward the most recent Penn State Extension info to Karyn H. This document is very concise and informative – we may just post a link to it.
- The group briefly discussed a similar issue – the emerald ash borer. Info about this is already on the Borough website under “News” and in some other locations. The spotted lanternfly info will be posted in these same locations.

5) Adjournment: Joe W. moved to adjourn the meeting, and George M. seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:44 pm.

6) Next Meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16th, at 7:30pm in the Doylestown Borough Hall.