

## **Borough of Doylestown**

### **Environmental Advisory Council**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

**Attendance: Joe Wallace, Karyn Hyland, Wendy Margolis, Kristin Winters, Mayor Strouse, David Kapturowski, George Mullikin, Victoria Holderer**

**1) Call to order:** Joe W. called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

**2) Approval of minutes:** David K. moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting, George M. seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

#### **3) Update on donations of reusable bags**

- Adam H. had said he was going to secure 250 additional bags from Penn Community, and there are about 15-20 left. There is one Farmers' Market left, so that number should hold us. Wendy M. and Jen Jarrett are going to man the booth for the last weekend.
- Victoria H. dropped off the chalkboard sandwich board, which worked out well for last week's market.
- George M. reported that we have almost 111 pounds of plastic bags. The last batch is still in his garage, about 22 pounds. He's been taking them to Weis and that's been working out well.
- Joe W. noted that it was very positive that we could be out at the Farmers' Market for the end of 2020 and get a good start for the next year.
- Mayor Strouse reported that the winter market has been cancelled. The organizers will discuss it for next year; logistically it just won't work out for this winter.

#### **4) Charging stations – grant status**

- David K. reported that he's gotten a couple of quotes for the charging stations. One (Bosch) is similar to the one at Pine St. and is \$5000. Another (Chargepoint) is a network station and is \$15,000; visitors use an app to pay for this.
- The cap on the grant for a non-network station is \$8000 per plug (\$16,000, since it will have two plugs) or 80%, whichever is less. The cap on a network station is \$9000 per plug (\$18,000) or 90%, whichever is less. We don't need to charge users all of the time with this model, but it is designed for that.
- David K. reported that the grant can also help cover signage and similar costs.
- The Borough would pay up front, then be reimbursed at the applicable rate. We would know that we have the grant but would have to wait for reimbursement.
- Karyn H. reported that the quote for the conduit is \$5,700. This work would need to be done very soon to stay within the construction schedule. The work was included in the plan but not included in the original bid. Electrical work would probably be more than \$3,000.
- David K. said we can choose to limit the grant to just the charging station and not apply it to any of the groundwork. We need to submit written proposals for the grant and need to include actual quotes.
- The group discussed the Chargepoint expenses, such as cell service for the charging station to communicate with the app. There would be fees for what we charge users at the station. Mayor Strouse asked if there are any liabilities related to longevity. David K. said he thinks these stations would be good for ten years.

- Karyn H. said she's leaning toward the Bosch charger, primarily because of location. The Borough would probably not be planning to charge fees for the stations, since they'd want to make them desirable parking places for electric cars.
- David K. noted that although there might still be funds into early 2021, he suggests we work on getting it ready to submit by the end of the year.
- Wendy M. asked if we can put the locations of the chargers on our website to feature them there. Karyn H. said we can look into that. David K. agreed that if we want to be a destination it makes sense to advertise that we have places to plug in.
- George M. asked if the installation and setup will be fairly comparable whichever model we choose. David K. said this is generally accurate. Karyn H. asked if both chargers have the same requirements. David K. said there is something specialized re: the networked one that requires something different, but the basic requirements are the same.
- George M. noted that the more expensive model would cost \$500 more per charger based on the % covered. David K. said when you look at all of the information, the Bosch model is probably the better deal.
- Karyn H. asked if Mayor Strouse or Wendy M. had input on how the Environment and Recreation Committee would respond. Wendy M. said that she'd want to see complete numbers so there would be no surprises to bring to the committee. Mayor Strouse asked if we decide to go with Bosch, could we have info to the committee by their next meeting on 12/3. Karyn H. said the missing piece is written estimates for the installation; we need real costs for the Borough. Wendy M. said they can put it on their agenda, then if it's not ready for the committee they can just pull it from the agenda. We will try to have it ready.
- Mayor Strouse asked how this relates to fleet vehicles. Karyn H. noted these are meant to be public stations, so they wouldn't be used for the fleet.
- Joe W. noted that it sounds like the group agrees to move forward with the Bosch. He asked David K. and Karyn H. to let the group know if there is anything they can do to help. Joe W. asked David K. if there is a grant portal in which we can start the application; David K. said it is very easy and he's already started it.

## 5) Old business/new business

- **Trash and recycling**
  - David K. called Whitetail and spoke to the operations manager, who assured him that they are still collecting trash and recycling separately; there must have been a special situation. There is a fee to recycle, but it is comparable with the trash fee.
  - Wendy M. reported that DelGuerico's is only using one truck and they are putting plastic bags in with the recycling. Karyn H. and Wendy M. both had trouble reaching DelGuerico's. Karyn H. said she's heard they're consolidating due to staffing issues and that recycling may need to end up with the trash anyway.
  - Regarding enforcement, Karyn H. went on the county site to find the recycling enforcement coordinator. He is retired but recollected that the Borough's ordinance was fairly strong. He said we could strengthen the language even more. Karyn H. said, for instance, we could specify that consolidation is not allowed. Enforcement would be an issue, but it would at least be a step to take.
  - Mayor Strouse asked about Waste Management. Karyn H. said WM and Republic have generally been compliant with no issues. Republic is geared more towards commercial pickups now.

- Joe W. asked if Karyn H. thinks the EAC should look at strengthening the ordinance. She said her feeling from others is that it is something we can look at, but enforcement is an issue.
- David K. noted that when he contacted Whitetail the operations manager gave him his personal cell phone. He was very open and willing to discuss anything that comes up.
- The group agreed we can monitor our own companies and see what is happening. Wendy M. said it would probably be good to look at the ordinance, since things do seem to be changing.
- Wendy M. asked who in the state has oversight over the trash haulers. The group did not know who is responsible for this.
- **December meeting**
  - Karyn H. asked if the group would like to meet in December. Joe W. said we would primarily be discussing updates on the charging stations and the trash issue. The group agreed to meet.
- **Native plants and trees**
  - Wendy M. reported that her committee is putting together a list of native plants that the Borough will use as its recommended plants for larger projects.
- **New EAC member (currently one position, but see next item below)**
  - Wendy M. reported that there are some applicants for the open position. A personnel committee is being formed to review the applicants.
- **Announcement**
  - Joe W. reported that December will be his last meeting with this group. Wendy M. will keep this in mind with the applicants. He will continue to help with the Farmers' Market. The group thanked him for his 6 years of service.

**6) Adjournment:** David K. moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:26 pm.

**7) Next meeting:** The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.