

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, December 15, 2020

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

1) Call to order: Joe W. called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

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

3) Charging stations

- Karyn H. reported that Borough Public Works has just informed her that there have been ongoing issues with the Bosch charging stations in town. They have been out of service almost as much as in service, and it has been difficult to get support to fix the problem. The issue is with the unit; it is not vandalism. The group discussed whether to continue pursuing the Bosch units (which would be double rather than the existing single units), or to look into the networked unit or another unit.
- This also brings up a question for Council: do we want to have more chargers or switch out the already existing ones? Networking has its benefits, but it costs more. If we change the existing ones we need to consider cost since it may only partially be covered by the grant.
- Mayor Strouse asked if the current units have the same issues as an older model. Karyn H. said the model numbers are similar (probably related to the number of outlets); we are not sure if the units have been updated.
- Mayor Strouse asked if we can apply for the grant without specifics, and David K. responded that we need specific info about the unit for which we're going to apply.
- Mayor Strouse asked if we can make the application for the Bosch unit then take some time to research if it will be reliable. Karyn H. explained if we submit the grant application with the Bosch and try to change it later, there is a possibility that we could do this change (not guaranteed). The group discussed that the networked unit would be a significant cost increase.
- Karyn H. said the next step (grant application aside) would be to send information about the units through a committee, have Phil (Public Works) available to talk about the problems, and run it through Council.
- Wendy M. asked about unit usage. David K. said the Bosch unit does not provide this type of info, but the networked one would.
- David K. said he can contact the manufacturer if needed. Karyn H. said Public Works is handling it right now.
- Wendy M. said this doesn't seem like a Finance Committee decision if the discussion is about the existing units. Instead we can put it through the Environment and Recreation Committee as a separate issue from the grant application.
- The group discussed the benefits of having consistency among the units. Karyn H. said if we go with the networked unit we'd want to stay consistent across the Borough with software, etc. The group discussed the benefits of the networked units if we decide later to add more units to the Borough Hall lot and museum area. David K. said an advantage of the network is there is an

app, so visitors could check if there is a space open. The group agreed that all of this supports expansion.

- David K. said retrofitting the old units with Chargepoint (the networked option) could be an issue with the grant money because the grant requires a double charge unit; the existing units are singles. We would need two adjacent spots to install a double, and Mayor Strouse noted that this is probably not currently doable. David K. suggested we should try to resolve the issue with Bosch. We should be able to get service.
- Mayor Strouse said on the one hand the timeline for the new Borough facility (estimated for Aug/Sep) gives us time; our greater concern is if we will lose our opportunity to get into round 2 of the grant awards. If we need to move quickly, should we keep on course? David K. has put most of the application together; it is just waiting for administrative types of input.
- David K. asked about the infrastructure. Karyn H. said the conduit and other infrastructure will be put in place no matter what. The Borough's costs meet the percentages needed for the grant.
- Karyn H. said it sounds like our group is endorsing both units. She can put together a side-by-side comparison/memo endorsing both products, and it will go to Council for review through Wendy M.'s Environment and Recreation Committee; the Committee meeting is 1/7. Wendy M. asked if David K. or anyone from the EAC wants to be at the Committee meeting to answer questions; David K. said he will be there.

4) Trash and recycling

- Joe W. reviewed our discussion at the previous meeting regarding some providers comingling recycling and trash. The group discussed that strengthening the ordinance at this time is not the best option; instead we will watch what is happening with our providers.
- Wendy M. said she's learned that 90% of plastic is not recycled.
- David K. said he spoke to the operations manager at Whitetail and the manager assured him that trash and recycling are collected separately. Their costs still justify sending it to recycling rather than the landfill.
- Mayor Strouse noted that Waste Management is good about keeping trash and recycling separate on the collection end; he's not sure what happens to it after that.
- Karyn H. said DelGuerico's info says to bag trash and keep recycling loose.
- Joe W. summarized the group's previous work updating the trash hauler list; we can continue to make this info available to residents. We can also continue the group's previous work providing education about what can and can't be recycled.
- Mayor Strouse noted this is a regional and national problem. Wendy M. asked if PennEnvironment might have info about the issue; Mayor Strouse said he will ask at a meeting he will be attending with them tomorrow.

5) Old business/new business

- This is Joe W.'s last meeting. He'll still volunteer with the group at the Farmers' Market. The group thanked Joe W. for his years of service on the EAC.

6) Adjournment: David K. moved to adjourn the meeting, George M. seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:06 pm.

7) Next meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:30 pm.