

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Attendance: P.R. West, George Mullikin, Kristin Winters, Karyn Hyland, Wendy Margolis, Steve Nelson, Grant Alger (via Zoom), Karen Graziano (via Zoom)

1) Call to order: George M. called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. The group welcomed our new member P.R. W.

2) Approval of minutes: Steve N. noted a line under Renewable Energy on the March minutes that was inaccurate; the line will be amended. Steve N. moved to approve the minutes as amended, P.R. W. seconded, and the minutes were approved as amended.

3) Single-Use Plastics – Public Outreach:

- Steve N. organized the public outreach info in Google docs. The group reviewed the info. Steve N. noted that on Wed. 4/19 there will be a meeting at Doylestown Township (CB Chamber of Commerce event), in which people will respond to the municipality's conversation on single use plastics. Steve N. will plan to attend to hear the conversation.
- We need to decide whom merchants should contact during the rollout, especially if there are issues. Wendy M. said she or the Mayor or anyone on Council will be happy to talk to them when things are in place. The Environment and Recreation Committee would be especially suited to answer questions. Grant A. will clean up the shared drive to get rid of previous versions. Karyn H. took the most recently edited version and sent it to the solicitor for review. Grant A. will make sure the finalized version has all edits (there were a few minor ones). P.R. W. asked about the public hearing; that will take place with Council (part of the adoption process). Wendy M. will review other details of the plastics discussion with P.R. W.
- On the public outreach document, Steve N. listed possible actions and divided them into Phase 1 (starting immediately) and Phase 2 (after ordinance adopted).
- Grant A. said that Faran at Penn Environment (PE) is happy to help in any way he can. Faran can talk to our reps in the State legislature, reach out to the press, etc. PE will be a resource we can reach out to.
- The group discussed if we will talk to businesses one-to-one. The group discussed sending a letter to businesses first, rather than direct contact, and the letter can invite them to contact us for more info/personal communication. Then we can speak more directly to the ones who have questions or may present issues. Businesses with bigger issues perhaps should go through Council. We need to put together the letter.
- The group agreed the structure of the outreach looks generally good and we can adapt it as needed as we go along.
- We should first develop the messaging points and the letter. Steve N. noted we also need to get business names. Wendy M. said that if we have messaging we could go to Doylestown Business Alliance and Discover Doylestown meetings, and that will cover many of the businesses. Karyn H. said many restaurants register themselves with Doylestown Alive.
- The letter needs to go out before Council acts on the proposed ordinance.
- P.R. W. and Steve N. will prioritize the tasks on the list. Karyn H. will provide any lists of businesses the Borough has. Wendy M. contacted Jenn Jarrett (who had provided the

Doylestown Business Alliance contact) to see what businesses they have. The businesses are the top priority for public outreach.

- P.R. W. will draft a letter to the businesses and Grant A. and Kristin W. will review it, so we can look at the letter at our next meeting.
- The Philadelphia website is a good resource for messaging re: plastics. Our ordinance is a source for messaging. Our survey has some info and PE will be a source as well. Grant A. will forward resources to P.R. W.

4) Renewable Energy:

- The Borough is doing a lot regarding renewable energy, as Phil Ehlinger told Steve N. and George M. at their recent meeting. We can post info on the EAC website.
- Steve N. will put together some bullet points, then run it by Phil E. and Karyn H.

5) Old/New Business:

a. Staff update on Comprehensive Plan (CP)

- Karyn H. said the CP kickoff meeting is Tues. 5/10 at 7:30. It is a Planning Commission meeting and is a public meeting. We should decide how we want the EAC to be represented; it would probably be best to have one person unofficially attend on the EAC's behalf and report back. The first meeting will be very general. Meetings will probably be monthly.
- The EAC attendees would primarily be attending the meeting to listen and will provide input if the Bucks Co. Planning Commission has questions.
- Whoever is available and would like to attend can go on 5/10. Kristin W. and Steve N. will be regular (rotating) attendees; others can attend as they wish. We will attend as general attendees for this first one. After that there will probably be surveys, and we can also develop more specifically what input we want to give. The CP is focused on long-range planning (10 years).

b. Managing working docs, work groups, etc.

- Karyn H. reviewed the Sunshine Law. We are a government entity and anything we vote on is subject to the law, so we need to discuss it publicly at a publicly advertised meeting. We can socialize but we cannot meet in groups outside of our regular meeting that are a quorum (currently 4) or more if we are doing business.
- This also includes documents that are placed in the shared drive. If it is a working doc that will be discussed at the meeting, do not put it into the shared drive until after the meeting or just before the meeting. Plan to include info with the agenda in the meeting packet.
- If we have any questions about anything, ask Karyn H. Generally send info through Karyn H. before sending it to the group.

c. Other

- Bird Town – Kristin W. reported that the bird walk will be on 6/4 led by Karin Isett at Chapman Park starting at 8:30 am. There will not be a bird walk on 5/21, since Heidi Shiver said a leader was not available; Wendy M. noted that she can help with this in the future. Lindsay T. is working on flyers with Heidi S. Kristin W. connected Heidi S. with

Fonthill and Lindsay T. connected her with the Tile Works; Heidi S. will work together with these entities on bird boxes or a similar project (we can do something like this later if we wish). Kristin W. said Heidi S. would like to bring us some signs (sell for \$20 each) and applications for the Audubon's Bird Friendly Habitat Recognition Program to promote at the Farmer's Market; we will discuss this further. We should keep in touch with Heidi S. regarding a pop-up garden and/or native plant sale at the Farmers Market, maybe in the fall (can also do pop-up at other locations like library or bookstore); in the meantime we can be putting together info for the Market on habitat programs and other relevant topics. The group discussed that 6/18 is the local Designed for Nature tour; Kristin W. will make sure Heidi S. knows about this.

- Farmers Market - Karen G. asked the group if she could speak to the person in charge of the Farmers Market about potential activities/info, and the group agreed this is a good idea.

6) Adjournment: Steve N. moved to adjourn the meeting, Kristin W. seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 6:52 pm.

7) Next meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 5:30 pm.