

## **Borough of Doylestown**

### **Environmental Advisory Council**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, July 21, 2020**

**Attendance:** Joe Wallace, Adam Howell, Kristin Winters, David Kapturowski, Steve Rubenstein, Victoria Holderer, Karyn Hyland, Wendy Margolis, Mayor Strouse

**1) Call to Order:** Joe W. called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Joe W. welcomed Victoria H., the EAC's newest member. Victoria H. introduced herself and said she is looking forward to getting involved with our initiatives and helping with outreach.

**2) Approval of Minutes:** David K. made a motion to approve the minutes, Adam H. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written, with Victoria abstaining.

#### **3) Summary**

- Joe W. summarized the tasks our group had been working on before things were shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One of our last actions had been to host the movie *Bag It* at the County Theater.

#### **4) Tree Planting**

- The EAC has been partnering with the Doylestown Township EAC to plant trees at Pools Corner. The planting day would have been in April but was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Karyn H. said that the planting day has been rescheduled for 9/12 at 9 am. Township staff will prep the site/dig the holes for the trees. There will not be broad outreach for volunteers and it will be closed to the public. Instead the planting will just be done by members of the EACs, the Borough Shade Tree Commission, the municipalities' Councils, and perhaps family members. We will need to ensure we are able to socially distance.
- The trees have been chosen. It is a phased plan, with canopy and structural plantings first, infill later. Funding is from the Township, the Borough, and a grant.
- Mayor Strouse asked if the extent of the plantings is the same. Karyn H. said it is.
- Adam H. asked if there will be press coverage. This was previously the plan; Karyn H. will talk to the Township.
- Victoria H. asked if there is a species plan. Karyn H. said she would send plans to the group (done during meeting).
- Steve R. asked about masks. Karyn H. and Joe W. confirmed that masks will be mandatory.

#### **5) Ready for 100 Upcoming Meeting**

- This is a program by the Sierra Club that helps municipalities work toward sustainability. There are some local municipalities committing to the pledge. A representative spoke to us last year, and we realized the Borough is doing very well in terms of the requirements.
- The next meeting is Wed. 8/5 and is a Zoom meeting. People will be there from the Borough and Township EACs and from other municipalities. Joe W. will send us the materials.
- Joe W. recalled that we had discussed passing a resolution that would go to Borough Council regarding this. Wendy M. confirmed she'll bring it to Council.
- Mayor Strouse said the content of the municipal pledge needs to represent the uniqueness of the municipality. For instance, we may be unique in that we have charging stations and an

electric car. Penn Environment has worked with us on some of our projects; this may complicate things a little bit, since this is a Sierra Club program. As we discuss the goals of Ready for 100, we need to be aware there are others like Penn Environment that are also doing good work. The resolution would need to be representative of what we've accomplished and what we hope to accomplish. Mayor Strouse suggested that the resolution not be tied specifically to the program but more to the goals.

- Steve R. asked if we should we be initiating something ourselves, since we are doing well on many aspects of the program. We'd anticipate working with many other groups, but maybe not be molded by other groups. Joe W. noted that this is in line with what Mayor Strouse said; we would not be wedded to the Sierra Club specifically, but to our goals. David K. agreed and said that while the program's focus is for municipalities to be 100% renewable by 2050, which may be unrealistic for the Borough, we are ahead of the curve in many ways.
- Joe W. said he'll share the invite for the meeting which will have all of the info.

## **6) Doylestown Ditches Disposables**

- Joe W. summarized that our previous focus was Doylestown Ditches Disposables, our campaign to end the use of single use plastics in the Borough. We put out the draft resolution, but now with the pandemic we will revisit it. We are still waiting for updates to PA's stance on the issue; Karyn H. said a study has been released, but the ban on actions is still in effect for another year or maybe more. Karyn H. will send us the newspaper articles about the study, which was done by industry people. We will need to talk about what the focus of our campaign will be going forward.
- Wendy M. said there is still interest in bringing plastic bags somewhere for recycling. They should be brought to the grocery stores such as Acme, which have restarted their collections after being shut down initially due to the pandemic. Karyn H. noted that if we were going to do collections at the farmers' market again, we'd need it to fit into their safety plan. The group discussed that our role at the market was primarily to provide public education; collecting plastic bags and handing out reusables was a good way to draw people into the discussion and get contact info.
- Joe W. asked if the group is interested in returning to the farmers' market. Adam H. said if we decide it's worth doing, he'll be there; he asked what the crowd has been like. Wendy M. said everyone's distancing and wearing masks, so there are not as many people as previously but there are a decent number of people. She suggested that if we planned to be there once or twice and advertised ahead of time, there are enough people to justify it. Kristin W. asked if we should check with those who run the farmers' market; Karyn H. said that since it's open to the public now, it should be ok to get started again.

## **7) Composting**

- The group discussed that a local composting business owner has been at the market and engaging some market visitors. Perhaps the EAC could team up with this person at the market to share the reducing plastics/composting message.
- Mayor Strouse noted there is a woman (possibly in Horsham) who also does composting. He said that Lambertville does a lot of composting. We could contact Liz McGill in Lambertville to see how they work it into their community outreach.
- The group discussed that there is some question about regulations with composting businesses, so the EAC previously wasn't quite ready to endorse this approach.

- Joe W. will reach out to Liz and find out her availability to join our next Zoom meeting. The discussion would include compost pickups but also composting in general. People can build their own bins, and there are also commercially available bins.

#### **8) Single Use Plastics Public Education and Participation**

- Joe W. noted we don't have any specific action items related to this right now. We can ask Liz what Lambertville is doing with the changes due to the pandemic.
- The group discussed that local businesses are currently even more financially strapped than they were previously, so we will wait on further discussions regarding takeout containers and other single use plastics. We should continue to work on helping the community reduce all waste in general.
- Joe W. brought up the idea of giving out a face mask with info on it to encourage good habits. This discussion will continue into next month.
- Karyn H. noted that this will be a good time to look at the public education component to see if we need to adjust our goals. We should all try to review this before the next meeting (farmers' market, handouts, local businesses, etc.). This was all part of the memo we had drafted, so Karyn H. will send the memo to us again for review.

#### **Old/New Business:**

**9)** Steve R. shared that this will be his last meeting, as he is moving out of the area. The group thanked him for the work he did with the EAC and wished him well.

**10) Adjournment:** Kristin W. moved to adjourn the meeting, and David K. seconded. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:22 pm.

**11) Next Meeting:** The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:30 via Zoom.