

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Attendance: P.R. West, George Mullikin, Kristin Winters, Karyn Hyland (Borough Staff), Steve Nelson, Grant Alger, Karen Graziano, Dennis Livrone (Borough Council)

1) Call to order: George M. called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

2) Approval of minutes: Steve N. moved to approve the minutes, Grant A. seconded. There were no objections and the minutes were approved by common consent.

3) Single-Use Plastics - Public Outreach:

- Steve N. reviewed the outreach doc with the group. It is split into Phase 1 (pre-adoption of ordinance) and Phase 2 (post-adoption). P.R. W. also sent a draft letter to businesses to Kristin W. and Grant A., who provided feedback, and then to Karyn H. and George M. We can pull out general info talking points from the letter.
- The ordinance will not go to Council until our outreach plan is finalized. The outreach plan will accompany the ordinance as it goes first through Environment and Recreation, then to Council. As soon as the plan and ordinance leave the EAC they will be put on the list for the next Environment and Recreation meeting.
- The group worked on scaling back the outreach plan and including only what is necessary. One way to do this is to meet with organizations that represent many of the businesses that will be impacted. Karyn H. noted that we may want to provide outreach to the Car Show representatives. Discover Doylestown is responsible for the Arts Festival. Dennis L. asked if the list of businesses covered by the organizations is comprehensive; it is not, but it covers many of them.
- The group discussed who should be listed as responsible for certain tasks. George M. suggested we could put TBD for some. We want to make sure the tasks are doable.
- The group discussed some ways to organize the outreach doc. Kristin W. suggested we could prioritize tasks that are more critical. George M. noted Environment and Recreation may cut some tasks. Grant A. suggested making all tasks actionable - e.g., earlier tasks should pave the way for later tasks.
- Staff would support the steps to implement the ordinance, but the EAC would be the ones to advocate for its adoption and acceptance among the community.
- Steve N. noted it would be good to see some Council representation when we speak to Discover Doylestown and other organizations. The group discussed that there may be pushback from some businesses. The survey done previously supported the ordinance, but we should also look for guidance from the other nearby municipalities that are banning single-use plastics (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New Jersey, etc.). It will be important to make Council aware of business responses.
- Dennis L. noted that the next Environment and Recreation meeting is June 2.
- George M. asked if the responsible party column on the outreach plan is necessary; the group agreed we can remove it and figure out responsibility later. In our cover letter we can say that we need to decide who is responsible for each part and that we also need to fine tune the timing. We can say this is a loose plan for outreach; once we have their support, we will develop it in more detail. Dennis L. said he can ask Wendy Margolis to give a report to Environment and Recreation on our progress.

- The group removed some items from the plan, consolidated some items to simplify it, and modified some titles/headers. Steve N. will do final edits.
- The info that Steve N. included at the beginning of the outreach plan will serve as our cover letter to Environment and Recreation. This will allow us to get the info to them and start the communication between our groups as they begin to review it. Steve N. will make sure the info we discussed (e.g. needs more details/timing) is included, then will send it to George M, who will send it to Karyn H. by early next week. The group voted to proceed with sending the outreach plan and the draft ordinance to Environment and Recreation.
- The group discussed the letter to businesses. A first version will go to businesses before adoption of the ordinance to let them know it's being considered, then a second letter will go after adoption with more specific info. The letter will be on the Google drive so we can all look at it. It will just be a draft until Environment and Recreation says to move forward with it.

4) Comprehensive Plan Update:

- Steve N. reviewed the first Borough Comprehensive Plan meeting, which was held on 5/10/22. The County Planning Commission did a presentation and included a timeline. The next step is a survey. We as the EAC should develop topics that we would like included in the questions on the survey and make sure that they will be hit somehow. The Planning Commission wants to discern the topics that community members view as priorities.
- Steve N. and Kristin W. will attend meetings. Even if the public doesn't note environmental issues as a priority, we can make sure they are included in the comprehensive plan. We should request a copy of the draft plan to review. Steve N. reviewed the proposed timeline; Karyn H. noted the timeline is fluid and covers the scope of service (not tied to specific months).
- Steve N. noted that as we go along we may wish to devote some time to developing a topic more in depth and bringing it to the Planning Commission. There will not be a meeting in June, so at our next meeting we can discuss some ideas to bring to them.
- The last plan was done in the 1990s and is on the Borough website. We can review it and reference it, and we should see what the layout/chapters are, etc.. Karyn H. noted that it was a very good plan and many of the goals were completed; the County noted this too.
- Steve N. said that if we Google "implementable comprehensive plan" and PA we can look at some examples. George M. said that buckscounty.gov has some comp plans we can review.
- At the next meeting we should come up with some ideas and we can develop our topics. It's a 10-year plan so we should look forward and think about our topics that way.

5) Old/New Business:

- **Bird Town**
 - Kristin W. noted that the joint Borough/Township bird walk is the first weekend in June.
 - Grant A. updated the website.
- **Farmer's Market Activities**
 - Karen G. reached out to Kelly and Alex (Farmer's Market management) re: some activities; they will get back to her for further discussion. Karen G. also asked re: getting a table for Master Gardeners info; the EAC will not have a separate table, but could potentially share info at this Master Gardeners table. Grant A. noted that we could still do an occasional table of our own with a special event or topic.
 - Kristin W. will connect Karen G. with Heidi Shiver (Bird Town, Doylestown Township EAC), who has some ideas for Bird Town info at the Farmer's Market. The group discussed that we could share engaging info re: plastics as we go along. Dennis L. asked if we could show the *Bag It* movie again; the group can discuss this.
- **Other**

- Steve N. asked about an item in the Sunshine Law: if we want to change the agenda during a meeting, do we need to vote on this? Karyn H. will check with the solicitor.
- P.R. W. said she spoke to someone who is looking for ways to do meaningful work related to the environment. We have discussed engaging volunteers in the past. Karen G. noted there is a Borough cleanup event soon.
- Kristin W. said someone had asked her what the Borough uses as herbicide. Karyn H. said horticultural vinegar is used when needed.

6) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 7:19 pm.

7) Next meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 5:30 pm.