

## **Borough of Doylestown**

### **Environmental Advisory Council**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, October 19, 2021**

**Attendance:** Karen Graziano, Kristin Winters, Grant Alger, Karyn Hyland, Wendy Margolis, Dave Kapturowski

**1) Call to order:** Kristin W. called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

**2) Appointment of chairperson:** Karen G. nominated George M. (not present) to be the new chairperson, Grant A. seconded, and the group approved George M.'s nomination. We will wait for George M. to accept the position. Dave K. said he will be leaving the EAC at the end of the term.

**3) Approval of minutes:** Dave K. moved to approve the minutes, Karen G. seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

#### **4) Single Use Plastics (Grant A.):**

- Grant A. and Karen G. reported that they and Steve N. (not present) talked about single-use plastics. At the last meeting we discussed creating a letter to send to the businesses to reinvigorate the plastics issue and make businesses aware. We want to invite comments.
- Wendy M. noted that what we have been talking about doing isn't a ban, it's a reduction. Some municipalities have a ban, but we'd like to work with businesses on reduction. Karyn H. and Wendy M. noted our proposal imposed a 10-cent fee per bag to help reduce use. The EAC had done a survey before making the recommendation. The survey asked if people would support a ban; the results are on the shared Google drive.
- We can continue to discuss if we want to do a ban or reduction.
- Wendy M. suggested the letter's purpose could be to take the pulse of local businesses re: the issue and to suggest voluntary reduction. This is our first letter to the businesses. Karen G. noted that since this is the case it might be good to suggest the voluntary reduction first.
- Karen G. noted that we can still point to Philadelphia as an example of a ban. The group also discussed Lambertville's program as an example.
- Karen G. and Grant A. said they and Steve N. will rework the letter to include that the Borough will be considering recommendations from the EAC. They can also draft a recommendation to Council.
- The letter is one component of our plan. There are many other components – working with visitors and residents, charging for bags, etc. We should go through the shared drive and look at our materials and decide what we want to do. We could meet with some businesses to discuss it.
- We will plan to have the recommendation to Council before we send the letter, so if we reference it, it's more official.
- Karen G. asked if Philadelphia charged for bag use or went straight to a ban; they went to a ban after a 90-day grace period. Doylestown would probably provide a longer lead time if we decided to do a ban.
- Our group can work in conjunction with Heidi Shiver from the Doylestown Township EAC who is working on the same topic.

- The group discussed removing “reusable plastic bags” as a suggested alternative to single-use bags, since it would be best to not use plastic at all. Some people find the single-use bags more useful than the reusable plastic bags.
- We will make the letter applicable to all different types of businesses.
- Our revision of our recommendations will make them more stringent and also narrower. For instance, we will not include recommendations re: straws.

#### **5) Renewable Energy:**

- At the last meeting we discussed broadening our scope beyond Ready for 100. Karen G. and Grant A. brought Steve N. up to speed on the conversation where we discussed focusing on making recommendations for the upcoming Borough comprehensive plan update rather than focusing on Ready for 100. At the last meeting Mayor Strouse had also suggested we communicate with Penn Environment and keep updated on what’s happening in Harrisburg. Grant A. will contact Penn Environment and will look up what’s happening in Harrisburg. These sources might also have info about plastics.
- The EAC would focus on making recommendations for the comprehensive plan, which will be updated starting in 2022. Right now the Borough is looking for consultants to facilitate the process due to staff time constraints. The entire process of updating the plan will take time.
- Karen G. and Grant A. reported that George M. is also joining the renewable energy working group.
- The current comprehensive plan is on the Borough website for guidance. No environmental info is included in the current one, so we will be instrumental in developing input.
- Karyn H. said there is always a public input component to the plan as well.

#### **6) Farmers Market (Karen G.):**

- Karen G. reported that Mayor Strouse gave her Kelly Unger’s contact information; she runs the market. Karen G. reported that Kelly U. and those working with her will be the stewards of our plastic bag container and will take it into and out of the shed. Karen G. will follow up to see if there are other ways we can work together.
- Dave K. asked if Adam H. (former EAC member) contacted Karyn H., since he has 200 reusable Penn Community bags in his garage that we can use. We won’t currently have a presence at the market, so we can give Kelly U. the Penn Community bags to give away.
- We will discuss the market again at future meetings. We’ll take it off of the agenda for now, but will put it back on the agenda leading up to the spring meetings.
- There will be a winter market in the old Bon-Ton. We can check it out, even though we won’t have a presence there.

#### **7) Outreach & Communication (Grant A.):**

- Kristin W. said she will check with Bird Town re: their info on the website, but right now it’s generic enough to stay the way it is.
- Karen G. asked if there is anything related to birds in the new park. Karyn H. said the park is still at the master plan scale right now, but something related to birds could be considered as the work on the park moves to a more detailed level. Wendy M. and Karen G. noted it would be great to get Bird Town certification for the park.

- Grant A. said there are a few items in the spreadsheet that are ready to be updated on the website, so he'll let Karyn H. know which ones they are.
- Grant A. asked if the trash info was posted to the website. Karyn H. said it has been. She will update the DelGuericco's info on the website and will remove the QR code (this was for the Farmers Market). The trash info updates will be announced on the Borough Facebook page.

**8) Public Comment and Old/New Business:**

- Kristin W. noted that the Bird Town Summit is Saturday 11/6 from 9-11 am.
- Karyn H. sent info to the group for the PML conference. We can get reimbursed if we go.
- Dave K. asked about the Hamilton charging station. It's still on backorder.

**9) Adjournment:** Dave K. moved to adjourn the meeting, Grant A. seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:24 pm.

**10) Next meeting:** The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at 7:30 pm.