

## **Borough of Doylestown**

### **Environmental Advisory Council**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

**Attendance:** George Mullikin, Dave Kapturowski, Kristin Winters, Karyn Hyland, Wendy Margolis, Grant Alger, Dennis Livrone, Kristina Gordon (community), Stephanie Ciaudelli (community), Karen Graziano (via Zoom)

**1) Call to order:** George M. called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. George M. accepted the EAC's nomination as chairperson.

**2) Approval of minutes:** Dave K. moved to approve the minutes, Grant A. seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

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

- Grant A. said he had a discussion with a representative (field director) from Penn Environment re: plastics and renewable energy.
- At the last meeting we discussed the letter we were going to send to businesses. We decided we wanted to nail down the ordinance a bit and coordinate that with the letter.
- Grant A. went through Wendy M.'s earlier edits of the ordinance the EAC had previously developed and pared it down even more. It's focused on just bags, and it applies to many different kinds of businesses in the Borough, not just brick-and-mortar. It does not include dry cleaners and there are some other exemptions. Borough events were not exempted. Dave K. suggested we return to the original doc approved by the EAC for review; after discussion, the group agreed to use the doc Grant A. had put together, since it showed all changes he and Wendy M. had made to the original doc.
- Delivery services were added in the previous edits; Karyn H. said this may not be enforceable.
- The Penn Environment rep said that two people who had previously worked with the EAC could work with us again. She will also send us samples to use, and they are happy to do a presentation for us (plastics and/or energy). Grant A. will forward this info to the EAC.
- George M. asked how soon Penn Environment could come out. Grant A. and Wendy M. said they are usually available and could talk to us soon. The group agreed that it would be good to talk to them in person. Grant A. said Penn Environment was involved with Philadelphia's ordinance.
- Karen G. asked if the original doc (ordinance) was adopted by Borough Council. It was not, since the PA ban on bans went into effect at that time; we (EAC) recommended that it be adopted by Council, but it didn't go through Council due to the PA ban going into effect while we were finalizing our recommendation. Now that the ban is lifted the EAC is reevaluating the ordinance. It hasn't yet been put on the agenda for Parks and Rec.
- The group reviewed a doc with Wendy M.'s and Grant A.'s edits, removed "carry-out" and "straws", and made some grammatical corrections. Karyn H. said the solicitor will clean up some of the legal language.
- The group agreed to accept all changes through the "Whereas"-es (down to the top of Section 1).
- In Section 1 the group discussed A.c. (pressure on recyclers), which was added. Dave K. moved, Grant A. seconded, and the group approved the addition of c. as amended.

- Section A.d. (landfills) was discussed and the group agreed to remove it.
- Grant A. had changed the order of Section B and removed straws. The group accepted Grant A.'s and Wendy M.'s edits in B.a. through B.f. The group made further edits of B.g. and accepted them. The group discussed and accepted B.j. and B.k. with their edits.
- The group agreed to remove B.l.
- The group agreed to keep the changed to B.m. and B.n. We removed "historic" on B.o. We kept B.p.
- The group discussed B.q. Do we want a ban or to charge for bag use? The fee might be more of a "shaming" mechanism rather than an economic disincentive.
- Karen G. asked if it would just be easier to align with the Philadelphia ban. There's momentum from Philly, and the conference in Glasgow just happened so there's more awareness. Dennis L. noted that people may initially be unhappy with what we propose, but eventually they get used to it.
- Kristina G. said she works at Acme and it's been busy because they have products that aren't at other stores. She feels there is store loyalty and shoppers would stick with the store even if they were told they needed to buy a reusable bag.
- Wendy M. suggested that we make a list of questions to propose to Penn Environment, rather than trying to make all of the decisions tonight. The group agreed that this would be a good idea. Karyn H. summarized that there are three options to discuss: a ban, paying for single-use bags, and paying for reusable bags.
- Grant A. will invite Penn Environment to the next EAC meeting. Grant A. will solicit questions from us beforehand, and then will send them ahead of the meeting.

#### **4) Renewable Energy:**

- Grant A. spoke to Penn Environment about this topic as well, and they responded the same way they did regarding the topic of plastics – they can talk to us and give us info. There is a bill proposed in PA similar to what is being rolled out in various states that will limit municipalities' ability to restrict the use of utilities based on the energy source. Grant A. said the Penn Environment rep noted it would be helpful for EACs to put their voices out re: bills like this. Karyn H. said she's not sure we've done that, but we've asked Council to pass a resolution that would go to PA.
- Penn Environment could also help as experts with a presentation to Council if needed.
- Grant A. asked about the Borough's comprehensive plan. The Penn Environment rep said the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has good resources for this and is a good model.
- George M. asked if we should start thinking about getting something into the 2023 budget to get rooftop solar on the new Borough Hall. Wendy M. said, and George M. agreed, that we would look at grants and show the Borough how it would happen.

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

- Karyn H. sent the trash haulers email to the Borough. The updates from the matrix are complete. Wendy M. asked Kristin W. if she wants the tub of Bird Town info from Steve (previous member); they agreed Wendy M. will keep it for now, but Kristin W. will take it at some point if possible.
- Wendy M. said it is unlikely the master gardeners will take on responsibility for the rain garden on East St.

## **6) Meeting Start Time**

- The group discussed starting the meeting earlier so it can end earlier. There are no conflicts with other meetings. The group agreed to try meeting at 5:30. This will start in 2022.
- The group discussed potentially scheduling Penn Environment to visit earlier. It may be difficult to get everything coordinated quickly enough to give public notice of the meeting. We could have a meeting in December that just focuses on Penn Environment. In December we will have an outgoing member (Dave K.), and we won't have our two new members until at least January, maybe later.
- The group decided to check if Penn Environment can come 12/21 at 7:30. If not, we'll cancel our meeting and try to schedule Penn Environment for the January 18th 5:30 meeting.

## **7) Old/New Business:**

- Dave K. reported that the Hamilton St. EV charging station is back in place and working; thanks to Public Works. Karyn H. just received info to resubmit for the charging stations at the new Borough Hall.
- George M. said the new PA building codes are scheduled to go into effect 2/14. We can do a final run-through of the Green Points program in January.
- Kristin W. reported that the Bird Town summit was informative and provided helpful resources.
- Grant A. suggested we put together some information about how the group functions for the new members attending in the new year. Karyn H. suggested Steve N. could be helpful for this; there is good info that the Planning Commission put together.
- Grant A. asked when the Borough budget will be finalized. Karyn H. said the preliminary budget was passed last night. The EAC budget was reduced from \$500 to \$250.

**8) Adjournment:** Dave K. moved to adjourn the meeting, Grant A. seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 9:21 pm.

**9) Next meeting:** The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 7:30 pm. The following meeting will be on January 18, 2022, at 5:30 pm.