

**Environment and Recreation Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Councilpersons Wendy Margolis (Chairperson), Joe Frederick, Ben Bell, Dennis Livrone (via Zoom), EAC members Grant Alger, and Steve Nelson, Building and Zoning Director Karyn Hyland, Borough Council President Jack O'Brien, and Borough Manager John Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Ms. Margolis.

The **Minutes** from April 9, 2022 were approved.

A **Single-Use Plastics Update** was provided by Mr. Alger of the Environmental Advisory Council. One obstacle worth noting is the creation of a database in order to assist with outreach. The County's Emergency Services department is helping with the creation of the database. Mr. Davis suggested starting with businesses which are supportive of the ordinance to assist with the rollout. Mr. Davis said a realistic timeline for the database is approximately 2 months.

The ordinance will need to go to Council at the end of the approximate 2-month period. Mr. Davis noted it is important to start the pre-process with consensus from Council that what will be presented to the public will be supported. If ERC or Council do not approve the ordinance, it will not be presented to the public. We will receive feedback from the public which will be presented to Council and EAC. Mr. Davis told the Committee (and guests) they need to determine if what is in the ordinance is something they are comfortable being shown to the public.

Mr. Bell had a question regarding section two of the ordinance and recommended the fewer words in the ordinance the fewer words the public will find to take objections to. Mr. O'Brien wanted to know how this will impact businesses within the Borough, such as supermarkets and small family owned businesses. For example, will people shop outside of the Borough at Weis rather than Acme because of plastic bags? Mr. O'Brien wants to ensure the costs to business owners has been considered and wants the cost concern to be addressed. Mr. Livrone shared Mr. O'Brien's concerns.

Mr. Davis mentioned businesses such as Wawa, Acme, CVS have already had to navigate this sort of an ordinance in different municipalities and would be able to provide insight to us regarding their experiences related to costs and logistics. Mr. Nelson of the EAC acknowledged part of this process will be retraining consumers to bring a bag along when shopping in town. Mr. Alger added there will be a 180-day grace period from the time the ordinance is adopted by Council until the time the ordinance will be enforced to assist with retraining consumers.

Mr. Alger mentioned EAC will need to address the concerns brought forward by the ERC to so a timeline can be created to help navigate the rollout of the new ordinance. EAC will need to prepare answers to the "why" questions which will come from the public. Mr. Davis wants a pool

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of people who are willing to help answer these questions. One purpose of the outreach will be to identify allies of this ordinance. Outreach will also help prepare people for the ordinance. Ms. Margolis wants to focus more on why it is important for Doylestown to be a leader in the County with a Single-Use Bag Ordinance rather than why people are being forced to change.

The Committee agreed a cost analysis of bags will need to be conducted to be prepared to answer questions from the public. Mr. Livrone mentioned how much money retailers will be saving by not buying plastic bags. The Committee also recognized that there will be people (retailers and consumers) who are angry about the ordinance. Mr. Bell brought up about the need for using caution when outreach begins and the need for the information to be evidenced-based and not anecdotal.

Mr. Bell wanted to know if instead of giving a 90-day or 180-day grace period would it be better to give a milestone, such as January 1. Mr. Davis and Ms. Margolis both believe a grace period of 90 or 180 days would be more well received and easier to rollout since there would be less restrictions and deadlines to meet.

Ms. Margolis asked the EAC representatives if they had complete understanding of the ERC's opinion and the next steps they need to take. Mr. Davis said the Borough will take the lead of preparing a list of businesses who will be allies of the ordinance. The timeline will then be developed for rollout. Letters, emails, and social media content will be created by the EAC to help answer FAQs. Once we have a list and content generated, a public meeting can be scheduled.

Ms. Margolis thinks EAC should take the lead on this with assistance from Penn Environment and Council serving in a supporting role. Mr. Nelson would like the Committee to work in tandem with Council and a group of volunteers for this project. Mr. Davis would also like everyone to use the same language when talking about the ordinance, i.e., recyclable vs. reusable vs. single use.

Mr. Frederick would like a consensus taken within the Committee as to whether they are in support of the ordinance.

**Old/New Business:** No old or new business to address.

**Adjourned:** Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.