

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Attendance: Grant Alger, David Kapturowski, George Mullikin, Karyn Hyland, Wendy Margolis, Kristin Winters, Steve Nelson, Victoria Holderer

1) Call to order: Victoria H. called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

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

3) Trash and recycling

- Grant A. spoke to DelGuericó's and Advanced Disposal. Advanced Disposal doesn't serve Doylestown Borough anymore and they were purchased by Waste Management; their website is very detailed. Grant A. called DelGuericó's a few times but never reached anyone; when we list them on the website we can just say there was no response. Grant A. put what he could into the spreadsheet based on the website; it's a family business.
- Victoria H. will put her info into the spreadsheet. Karyn H. noted that the next step will be to put the spreadsheet info into a user-friendly format to be uploaded to the Trash and New Resident sections of the website. She's not sure how many people look at it; there's no way to check that. Whatever we think will be most attention-grabbing can be included.
- Karyn H. also mentioned that we can include graphics. She summarized for the new members the EAC graphics the group developed. Victoria H. said she'll work on compiling the haulers information together to make it work as one document. Karyn H. will send her the graphics to input into the doc. Victoria H. will send it to the group for approval.
- Grant A. suggested that we have a column indicating "confirmed" or something like that to show that we checked this info with the company and it's not just info from the website.
- Karyn H. said there's no master list for all haulers. There is a list of haulers who have historically worked in the Borough, but this is not anything beyond what we could figure out by seeing which trucks go by in town.

4) Green Points evaluation

- George M. sent out two docs to the group. The first is a table which focuses on the energy section - section 3. He and Dave K. updated this section to align it with the current codes. The second doc is the original one from 2017 that we can use as a reference while we are doing the updates.
- Karyn H. brought up the spreadsheet and George M. walked the group through it. Column C shows how the points would work with the new code. We want the points to go to practices that are better than code (not just meet code).
- Karyn H. asked about Energy Star and whether it corresponds to the code updates. George M. said they're not perfectly in sync, but in general Energy Star guidelines try to keep up with code updates. Karyn H. asked if Energy Star windows are common, since she hasn't seen a lot of them come across her desk. George M. said we should be seeing them.
- Grant A. asked how the points work. Karyn H. explained that the points are separated by category (e.g., electrical, plumbing, etc.). Each point translates into a percentage off of that

particular permit – e.g., HVAC is tied to the mechanical permit, windows are tied to the window fee. The biggest permit is the building permit. The points are added up and together go toward the possible 50% off, although realistically not many applicants will reach 50%. Most points correlate to simpler items, such as efficient lightbulbs. Sometimes bigger or more involved projects might get a higher number of points; for instance, if someone hired an architect to make the project more sustainable.

- George M. said figuring out the points on the spreadsheet is a negotiation process, and it may be best to nail them down the next time we go through the spreadsheet. Dave K. said the bottom line is the code, which will be updated to 2018, so anything that meets the code is 0 points and bonus points are given for things that go beyond the code. Some items were added that seemed to make sense.
- George M. reviewed the general categories with everyone. Storm windows are a new category for this update. Karyn H. said windows are one of the top priorities for homeowners as well as the Historic and Architectural Review Board. It might be worth looking at marrying the goals of the Board with this document - for example, restoring historical windows in a sustainable way. George M. said in this example you could replace the single pane glass in a window with double pane.
- The group reviewed the doors section next, then insulation. Insulation points are more challenging to get with the updates.
- Karyn H. asked about adding points for a light-colored roof. George M. said in the city this is important because roofs are a heat sink. For a typical house in our climate, where we are heating-dominated, it may actually be more energy efficient to have a dark colored roof to absorb heat and decrease heating costs. Dave K. noted we don't have much of a heat island in the Borough. The group discussed that our climate zone might eventually flip to cooling-dominated.
- The lighting section was simplified and exterior lighting controls were included because they are in the updated code. An Energy Star item here is listed at 4 points but should probably be moved back to 2. The group reviewed the HVAC section; we might need to remove duct insulation because what is currently available for use meets code.
- For ductwork tightness the code is encouraging builders to get all ducts out of non-thermal envelope areas. George M. suggested we should increase the points to 4 to really encourage that all ductwork goes in envelope areas.
- For building tightness, PA modified some parts of this topic, so we'll need to revisit it when we see what the adopted code looks like. Karyn H. noted that usually PA modifies the code a bit as it moves from the national to the state level.
- The indoor air quality section was expanded a bit and includes radon control. There are also some new items in the new home section. Karyn H. asked if there are programs in place for renovations that marry into historic or non-historic homes. George M. said the Energy Star for Home Performance is meant to target existing homes, but it's hard to get into for a consumer; they need a contractor to walk them through it. Wendy M. noted that in the borough we have very limited new construction, and Karyn H. agreed.
- Karyn H. showed the group some other parts of the Green Points program. Most of it is not as detailed as the energy section. George M. will clean up the energy section. Anyone from the group who wants to put in notes can do so
- Karyn H. said the Borough is a SolSmart community. We're SolSmart Silver based on what we are already doing.

- Karyn H. asked Steve N. if Ready for 100 has any feedback re: the Green Points program. Steve N. said he mentioned this to Ready for 100 and it fits in with their goals.
- George M. asked about next steps. Karyn H. noted they made a good dent in the energy section, and asked if anyone wants to work on other sections.
- Grant A. asked how the points are awarded. Karyn H. said the usage is not high. It hasn't really affected the borough's budget. There's a certain level of participation that promotes good practices and doesn't hurt the budget. George M. confirmed with Karyn H. that we can generally keep the points similar in many areas.
- Steve N. asked re: the Intelligencer building project. Karyn H. said this project is not allowed to use the Green Points program; there are other programs in the Borough geared toward large projects like that.
- Steve N. asked how enforcement for the Green Points works. Karyn H. explained that the money is given as a rebate, so the inspection has already checked what has been done.
- Karyn H. said it would be a good idea for everyone to go through the program and see what might have changed since it was put together. The push is to go beyond code.
- The group noted that the wording of the turf item should be switched to provide clarity.
- Landscape items would be included under the building permit. It's difficult to set a number for some items in this section. Wendy M. asked about runoff mitigation - for instance, a pervious driveway. Karyn H. said grading requirements cover these, as well as the stormwater management requirements.
- Wendy M. asked where people see this document. Karyn H. said it's on the building permits section of the website, and most builders are familiar with it. Grant A. noted it would be good to advertise to residents. Karyn H. said we can talk about putting it in the newsletter, eblast, and other channels for getting the info out there. Kristin W. noted that we could also talk about the program at the farmers' market.
- George M. asked if we know when the code will be updated. Dave K. said the update is currently late, but he's not sure what stage they're at right now. George M. said we should consider this a working doc and add ideas we'd consider useful. This could be done in between meetings.
- Dave K. noted that the points for a level 1 charger should be removed since it is just a regular plug. Karyn H. noted we can be creative with some items.
- Karyn H. said maybe it makes sense to put the rest of this info into the spreadsheet. George M. said he can work on that and will put it on a Google doc we can share. Grant A. asked if we have a committee folder on Google. George M. said he'll look into this and will get info to us. Karyn H. said she has an EAC dropbox that we could use as well.
- Wendy M. and Karyn H. said that Council approved proceeding with our grant application for the charger.

5) Old business/new business

Farmers' market

- Karyn H. said the farmers' market is starting on April 17th. Borough staff will need info re: what our group needs at the market. Our next meeting is on 4/20 after the first market. The group discussed the pros and cons of using Sign Up Genius. Victoria H. noted that it was a good way to know who would be present. Karyn H. needs someone to send out the link so she can pass it on to Council. Victoria H. will assume responsibility for this. George M. said that the table, chalkboard, and other supplies should be in the shed.

- Victoria H. summarized for the new members that the EAC has been attending the market on Saturday mornings, where we have a booth and collect plastic bags to bring to a local grocery for recycling. Last year we shared info with visitors to the booth re: composting. Wendy M. noted that we probably don't need to bring a compost bin, we can just discuss the info. Victoria H. agreed and said the flyer to hand out and binders with info to share were helpful. Wendy M. suggested a few modifications to the flyer.
- George M. said the logos are getting tattered and should perhaps be reprinted. Wendy M. suggested laminating them, and Victoria H. said she has lamination sheets that we can use for some reprints.
- Steve N. asked if we also hand out general info about the EAC. George M. said we don't do handouts per se, but we talk about our work and collect email addresses of interested residents. We could consider handing out info about events and other environmental info. Wendy M. has former EAC member Steve R.'s Bird Town info and some brochures about native plants that attract birds that she can bring.
- Steve N. asked about farmers' market hours. Victoria H. said we started last year with 8-1 then narrowed it to 9-12. This was one shift and it was up to volunteers to decide if they can stay that whole time. George M. suggested we make two shifts this year so it's shorter, and the group agreed.
- Wendy M. asked if the tree giveaway is happening. The EAC can help the Shade Tree Commission to hand the trees out. The giveaway usually coincides with Arbor Day/Earth Day. Karyn H. said she knows Dave Berger is looking at what trees are available, but she is not sure what decisions have been made. Arbor Day is on 4/30 this year.
- Karyn H. said we should send her a list of what we need printed for Saturdays. The group agreed it would be nice to laminate a single-stream recycling label. This label was put into the Borough newsletter, but the newsletter wasn't sent (since it was right around the time COVID lockdowns occurred).
- Victoria H. asked about our budget – would stickers for the recycling label be within the budget? Karyn H. said the group had talked about looking into funding for this or getting a trash company as a sponsor. The budget can go toward this, but it probably wouldn't cover much. Kristin W. asked if we might charge for stickers, but the group was not sure how this would work. George M. said we can do some info gathering regarding interest. Recycling has become trickier, so the group discussed what info we could share

County projects

- Karyn H. shared an announcement from the County. The County Health Dept. sent an email asking if the EAC has plans to do any mosquito outreach like discussing landscaping projects to eliminate breeding habitat, encouraging good practices at residences, etc. Karyn H. noted that several years ago the EAC and County got together to make a video educating residents about the mosquito spraying program; we can see it on the Borough website. They asked us to let them know if we have any projects or are considering them. Wendy M. asked if it might be helpful to have the County Health Dept. representative come speak to us about what projects would be useful. Karyn H. will invite her to the next meeting.

Ready for 100

- Steve N. had an update re: Ready for 100. The County commissioners passed a resolution recently to go 100% renewable in many areas by 2035 and 2050, and to have a sustainable

County fleet by 2030. Things are still moving forward. Karyn H. asked if there is anything needed from Borough Council for Ready for 100 - anything official. Steve N. said in his opinion, yes; it would be good to adopt some type of resolution regarding renewable energy. We can talk about this in more depth at the April meeting. Wendy M. said this would be sent to her Environment and Recreation Committee; we would send a recommendation to them, then they would bring it to Council.

6) Adjournment: George M. moved to adjourn the meeting and Steve N. seconded and the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 9:29 pm.

7) Next meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm.