

Community and Government Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 13, 2022 6:00 PM

Present: Councilpersons Ben Bell, Larry Browne, Tim Brennan, and Amy Popkin. Also in attendance were Deputy Borough Manager Phil Ehlinger, Borough Council Vice President Wendy Margolis, Mayor Noni West, and Borough Planning Commission Chair James Lannon.

Approval of April 11, 2022 Minutes: Approved as submitted.

Youth Recognition Program Implementation: Council has approved this program. In order to begin implementation, Ben provided several documents explaining the program along with a draft schedule beginning with nominations, the review process, through to finalist interviews and candidate selection. This was based on a yearly calendar, although Larry would prefer to work on a school calendar instead to coincide with school and scout projects. All in attendance agreed, and Larry will revise the document to reflect those changes.

Overview of Pennsylvania Restrictions on Gas Powered Yard Equipment: Ms. Margolis requested the entire discussion be held in the Environment and Recreation Committee. Mr. Bell suggested the discussion be held, as no decisions are being made at this time, and provided documents showing what ordinances communities around the country are putting into place. Cynthia Bottoms, Doylestown resident, discussed if local landscape companies would be willing to forgo gas-powered equipment. Doylestown is not currently in the position to pass an ordinance; this discussion is just starting. Ms. Margolis asked if the noise ordinance can be enforced, with Mr. Ehlinger explaining it is a process that involves proper, certified noise detecting equipment and documentation, as well as the staffing it would require. Phil doesn't feel it would be well-received, although Council direction will be followed. Amy would prefer to see a campaign put together to encourage residents to move away from gas-powered equipment instead of moving directly to enforcement of an ordinance. Mayor West noted this is a small part of what will be part of the Comprehensive Plan process along with many other environmental issues. At the request from a Committee, these questions could be added to the public survey.

This discussion will continue through the Environment and Recreation Committee.

Mayor's Legislative Update: Mayor West noted there are no hot topics at this time, although she did find interesting the Senate passed a bill allowing the destruction of confiscated dirt bikes and ATVs. The House and Senate have to pass the budget by January 30. Rainy Day Fund discussions, among others, will continue.

Resident Cynthia Bottoms asked about tree requirements for developers. Mr. Ehlinger explained the local ordinance requiring replacement of removed trees and/or contribution to the Shade Tree Fund, with approval.

New/Old Business: None.

Meeting Adjourned 6:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Kramer
Minutes Secretary