

## **Borough of Doylestown**

### **Environmental Advisory Council**

#### **Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

**Attendance: Mike Moscherosch, Karyn Hyland, Kristin Winters, Joe Wallace, Steve Rubenstein, David Kapturowski, Wendy Margolis, Ben Bell**

**1) Call to Order:** Mike M. called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

**2) Approval of Minutes:** Steve R. noted that "recycling" should be changed to "recycleable" on the last page, and the word "can" should be added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the Ready for 100 discussion. Joe W. made a motion to approve the minutes as otherwise written, Mike M. seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with the changes noted.

#### **3) New Business:**

##### **Green Business Practices**

- Wendy M. reported that the Borough would like to seriously address reducing the use of plastics. She and Ben B. provided documents describing plans in Narberth, PA and Lambertville, NJ. Narberth charges for plastic bags. Lambertville banned all single use plastics and is accomplishing this goal in phases.
- Ben B. noted that we should try to use the tools we have available to address this issue at our local level as much as possible. Wendy M. reported that there is a lot of support on Council for this, even though it would require some discussion. They'd like our advice for how to proceed. It is understood that we might need to do this in steps.
- Wendy M. stated that if there is a way to give some sort of recognition to the businesses, that might be a way to go. Joe W. noted that enforcement is one of the issues we've discussed; we'd need to determine how to monitor the program and ensure that guidelines are being met.
- The group discussed our No Straws November campaign last year. Although it didn't lead to major changes, it was a way to test the water. Ben B. said that these ideas are easy to shoot down, but it is noteworthy that we did complete the No Straws November campaign - it's a start. Karyn H. described how No Straws was successful for certain goals; for instance, the event received publicity. A next step could be to try to get the community more involved in programs like this.
- Wendy M. indicated that Discover Doylestown could be useful to help promote a green business program. They could help us gather and organize information.
- The group discussed the pros and cons of providing benefits to businesses for participation in green programs vs. passing ordinances. We may wish to develop a program – something like "Borough Green" with a sticker for the door - before we put ordinances in place. Wendy M. said we can look at ordinances, but we can also look at drafting a resolution.
- Mike M. observed that we need to define our ultimate goal to help drive our program. David K. noted that we need to do our research, and Ben B. confirmed that more information would be helpful to discussions. Mike M. said that we can gather scientific data about items like a plastic bag, and what its environmental impact is. Wendy M. noted that the Narberth document includes information from studies and is based on data, so it could be helpful. Wendy M. also

noted that an important piece of our education for residents is how to avoid using some items in the first place, so there is even less to recycle or reuse.

- Karyn H. summarized our group's attempts to work with this issue and noted that it sounds like we're on the same page, we just need to figure out how to get things started.
- Ben B. brought up the example of the aerosol ban which was put in place to protect the ozone; even though there were other pieces involved in this issue, one piece was addressed to get the process underway. Mike M. suggested we can make a wish list of items and think about which ones will be easiest to address. As an example, the group discussed that Narberth limited their program to single use plastic bags and straws. Kristin W. suggested making a list of questions to address for particular items and each picking an item to find info for – that way we have info and a starting point. Karyn H. reminded the group that we already have a lot of info about styrofoam from a CB West student's presentation to the group.
- The group agreed that it makes sense to gather info about some specific items. The information gathered could include an impact assessment and the prevalence/quantities of certain items in our communities. Ben B. noted that impact should be something that could resonate with people. For now we will just gather info, but when we start our public campaign we need to make it pertinent to the community.
- Steve R. noted that it will be important to emphasize the positive aspects of what people can do and we want to keep it simple.
- Joe W. will create a google drive for questions that we want to ask, and Mike M. will put the life cycle assessment data in. After that we can start working on questions for the next stage. The three items we will address are: plastic bags, plastic straws, and Styrofoam. We need input and output data for these items.
- Wendy M. will run our ideas by Discover Doylestown.
- Joe W. and Karyn H. will establish some contacts with Narberth. It would be interested to hear what pushback they've been receiving. Karyn H. will also contact a woman with information about recycling for the county who could be helpful in giving us some recycling information.

#### **4) Old Business:**

##### **Maplewood Meadow**

- Joe W. updated the signs for the meadow and they are approved for printing. Karyn H. will forward them for printing so the area can be marked off this spring.
- We'll monitor the meadow this growing season to see what plants and weeds are growing there.

##### **Rain Garden at EMS**

- Steve R. reported that weeds are high in the rain gardens. The group discussed that we would want to cut it down in March so it can still provide habitat this month.
- This garden is in the Borough landscape maintenance bid, so the Borough will take care of it.

##### **Recycling Label**

- Joe W. updated the recycling labels as discussed at the last meeting.
- For now, since the grant application deadline passed (the grant would have been used for printing), the label will be printed in the newsletter as information for residents. Joe W. will add

a dashed line with instructions to cut it out to encourage residents to put the newsletter version on their containers.

**5) Adjournment:** Joe W. moved to adjourn the meeting, and Steve R. seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:46 pm.

**6) Next Meeting:** The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Doylestown Borough Hall.