

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Attendance: Adam Howell, Karyn Hyland, Kristin Winters, Mike Moscherosch, Wendy Margolis, Joe Wallace, Joe Frederick, John Davis, Mayor Strouse, Ben Bell

1) Call to Order: Mike M. called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2) Approval of Minutes: Mike M. made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting and Joe W. seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

3) Single-Use Plastics

- Karyn H. summarized our discussions at recent meetings, and that we have decided to focus on reducing the use of plastic bags and straws. We have discussed a 10 cent charge for bags (which would go back to the business), and that straws would not be banned but would be given out by request only.
- Mike M. noted that at the summit they learned that many other municipalities are looking at banning single-use plastics. If we work together we may find it easier to get all of the pieces in place and there may be more consistency, which will go over better with the chain businesses/corporations. Joe W. and Mike M. noted that one of the takeaways from the summit was to go with stronger language and to remain consistent with it.
- The group decided to make the phase-in period one year, since 6 months is too short a time to try the program out.
- Group members had put together a draft ordinance for Doylestown Borough based on Narberth's document. The group went through the Doylestown Borough draft ordinance line by line and discussed it in detail, making updates as they went along and clarifying points as needed.
- Joe W. noted that a discussion with the other EACs that are crafting the same language would be helpful.
- Regarding straws, the group discussed that we will need to educate businesses that provide smoothies and milkshakes about the alternatives for their product and the benefits of using paper straws or sustainable alternatives. Education and the one-year phase in period will be helpful for this. However, we have to provide enough information about our plan from the beginning so that participants are clear on the requirements. We need to be clear that this is happening and that we will help support businesses (e.g. through education and information) to be successful.
- The group continued to discuss the fee that would be charged for plastic bags. Karyn H. noted that the Narberth 10 cents was most likely symbolic, intended to make the consumer think about using fewer bags. Different cities collect different fees. We want the amount to make an impact without being onerous. The group decided for now to keep the fee at 10 cents, but we will note that the ultimate plan is to eliminate single-use plastic bags.
- Plastic straws will be banned. Exemptions for medical conditions are included in the draft ordinance.

- Other exemptions were removed, since they are covered in other areas of the document.
- Joe W. noted that Lambertville has laid out many details of their program and we could learn a lot from the work they've done. They are rolling out their program right now.
- It may be helpful to have a kickoff meeting, perhaps with a speaker or film. Lambertville is doing something like this. Lambertville is operating with a grant, which we don't have; however, we can still learn a lot from their program.
- If we meet in August with Lambertville, we can do our kickoff soon. The public meeting can perhaps be planned for September. A survey would be intended to alert people that this is happening and include them in the conversation. We could probably have the movie in the County Theater.
- Borough staff will hone the list of all businesses in the Borough that this will affect. For corporations, we will approach the local branch and it will be their responsibility to pass it up to the corporate offices.
- We will invite the Lambertville and Solebury representatives to our August meeting, possibly also New Hope and some other key players. Wendy M. will put together the survey and circulate it to us. By the end of the August meeting we will have an outline of our rollout process and will know what questions are on the survey. The joint meeting will be on 8/13, one week before our regular EAC meeting, then we will have our regular EAC meeting on 8/20 to make sure everything's in place.
- Joe W. will contact the other groups to invite them to the 8/13 meeting. We will meet at 7 pm that night.
- We will still meet in July at our regular time to take another look at the ordinance and approve the survey.
- Mike M. will not be here July and August, so Joe W. will cover the meetings.

Old/New Business:

4) Spotted Lanternfly Presentation

- Borough arborist Bob McMullen will be doing a presentation on 6/26 in Borough Hall about the spotted lanternfly.

5) Adjournment: Joe W. moved to adjourn the meeting, and Adam H. seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 9:43 pm.

6) Next Meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Doylestown Borough Hall.