

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Attendance: Karyn Hyland, Kristin Winters, Mike Moscherosch, George Mullikan, David Kapturowski, Steve Rubenstein

1) Call to Order: Mike M. called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

2) Approval of Minutes: Mike M. found a typo on the 2nd page of the minutes from the last meeting, which will be fixed. David K. made a motion to approve the minutes and Steve R. seconded. The minutes were approved as written with the correction noted.

3) Single-Use Plastics – Joint EAC Meeting Recap

- Mike M. reported the joint meeting regarding the reduction of single-use plastics was attended by one representative from Solebury, one from Lambertville, and one from Plumsteadville. The Lambertville representative noted that she puts in 30 hrs/week on this project, keeping in touch with the businesses, coordinating and training volunteers, visiting residents door to door, organizing lectures, coordinating with distributors and businesses to show what is available, and organizing related projects.
- Mike M. said his main takeaway from the meeting is the importance of taking a multi-path approach, particularly informing and sensitizing the public, along with keeping in touch with the businesses and making sure they're on board.
- David K. noted that there is no large grocery in Lambertville, which is why they're going door to door, since they can't provide education for the public outside a storefront. In terms of funding, a NJ grant is not available to us, but there may be something available in PA that we could start looking at. It would be good to reach out to the Lambertville representative (Liz M.) to see how she wrote the grant and to get some ideas for how we could get this started. What we are doing shouldn't be out of reach in terms of funding, and businesses may be willing to let us provide education outside their doors.
- Karyn H. said we haven't researched grants yet, but there may be some educational grants available. Bags and things like that should be fundable, and many businesses already give them away (for instance at the festival in early September).
- George M. noted that Lambertville's ordinance did not include a form of enforcement. However, they were still able to make some progress, both with residents and businesses. David K. pointed out that there was a year between enacting the regulation and initiating enforcement; the year gap was used for educational purposes. Karyn H. noted that the Lambertville representative reported regret that they did not enact a fee on paper bags.
- David K. and George M. described the positive reinforcement initiative that Lambertville is developing, including things like a sticker for the window, citizen awards, and some sort of scoring system.

4) Single-Use Plastics – Implementation of Outreach and Education Plan

- Karyn H. and Mike M. noted that the Doylestown farmers market is a resource that we can use to educate the public. We need to inform as many people in Doylestown as possible about the project and get their email addresses to contact them. If we set up a stand at the farmers market, we can talk to the public there and share the plastics survey, as well as collect names and emails to start to build a database of people who are interested in the project. David K. noted that the film at the County could be another place to get contact info from those who are interested in the project. The movie may be shown in January. Mike M. pointed out that for businesses it may be most effective for Discover Doylestown or other businesses who support the plan to do some of the communication.
- Mike M. also noted that we can probably continue to educate the public until July, when the research report for PA is due and hopefully will support our efforts. The time until then will go quickly. We want to create a situation where an ordinance is not a surprise but an expected next step. David K. noted that it will also be important to start identifying sources for funds.
- The group discussed the pros and cons of using the recycling sign the EAC put together as a conversation starter at the farmers market. It was decided that we will have a box from the supermarket for recycling plastic bags. We could hand out reusable bags. Karyn H. suggested businesses may have bags left over from the arts festival weekend. There are probably about six weeks left for the farmers market.
- The group reviewed the survey results. The plastics survey had the highest response rate of any of the Borough's surveys. There is generally good support for the project among residents and businesses. Education is still needed.
- Steve R. and George M. noted that it will be good to focus on other issues for the Borough. The group discussed that the plastics project will be a good stepping stone for those other issues. If we continue to move this project along, then we can focus on other projects. Mike M. noted that for the public the plastics project is very real, something they can do. Also, by doing this project we learn better how to do the next project.
- We'll start by talking to people at the farmers market. George M. will ask Acme for a plastic bag recycling box, which will be there every week. He will also ask them if they'd like to contribute any reusable bags. Karyn H. will bring a table and clipboard, and is looking into some sort of borough identification for the table. She and some other members will look into getting cloth/reusable bags from local businesses. We can use the survey as a conversation starter. George M. will bring binders for copies of the survey. The first Saturday at the farmers market will hopefully be 9/28; George M. will be there.

Old/New Business:

5) Sierra Club/Ready for 100:

- The meeting for Ready for 100 is this week in the Life Sciences building at Del Val.

6) Sustainability at the New Borough Building:

- The new Borough building will be solar ready.

7) Bird Town:

- Steve R. will find out the status of this program in the Borough.

8) Resignation:

- Mike M. informed the group that he put in his letter of resignation due to other responsibilities. This is his last meeting. The group thanked him for all he has done for the EAC.
- The group discussed the idea of having an additional position on the EAC for a student member in the future. This position would have turnover, but the student could bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

9) Adjournment: David K. moved to adjourn the meeting, and George M. seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 9:10 pm.

10) Next Meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Doylestown Borough Hall.