

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Attendance: George Mullikan, Joe Wallace, Karyn Hyland, Adam Howell, Kristin Winters, David Kapturowski, Steve Rubenstein, Mayor Strouse

1) Call to Order: Joe W. called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

2) Reorganization

- George M. made a motion for Joe W. be promoted to the open chairperson position, and David K. seconded the motion. All were in favor and Joe W. agreed to be the chairperson.
- Kristin W. will continue as secretary.
- Kristin W. made a motion for George M. to be the vice chairperson, David K. seconded the motion. All were in favor and George M. agreed to be the vice chairperson.

3) Approval of Minutes: David K. made a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2019 (joint EAC meeting) and September 17, 2019 (regular EAC meeting) and George M. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

4) Single-Use Plastics Outreach

- The ordinance has been moved to Council. We are responsible for the activities/outreach/education that go with it.
- This Saturday we will plan to be at the farmers market for outreach. The table is ready to be there with a banner and two chairs. Karyn H. suggested having a sign-up for people to man the table each Saturday. We should have at least 2 EAC people there, and Borough Council members will sign up to be there too. There is only about a month left at the farmers market.
- Karyn H. will make sure an announcement goes out to the Borough so visitors to the farmers market are aware we will be there.
- Requests have been sent out for reusable bags, but none of the businesses contacted have supplied us with any yet. Adam H. will talk to someone at Penn Community. George M. will talk to Providence, TD Bank, Bank of America, and Acme. Joe W. will talk to McCaffrey's. David K. will talk to Citizens Bank.
- We will have a box for recycling plastic bags there, as well as the survey results. We will collect emails/contact info to keep people up to date.
- This seems like a good plan for this Saturday. We'll see how this week goes, then adapt for the following Saturday if needed.
- If we want to do more activities/hand out more items, we can plan for the spring opening of the farmers market in the end of April 2020. The first Saturday is usually the tree giveaway.
- Steve R. suggested we could also hand out info/pamphlets regarding Bird Town when we're there.
- Having the recycling info/sticker that we worked on there will also be a conversation starter. We all need to stay engaged and informed. Avoiding putting plastic bags in single-stream recycling is on the sticker, so it will reinforce our message to reduce plastic use or recycle it appropriately.
- George M. will take a printout of the survey from Karyn H. (she'll drop it off at his house) and put it in a binder, then deliver it to Joe W. at the beginning of the farmers market. Joe W. will

make an email signup sheet to bring. Public Works will bring the table and chairs, which we should store in the shed from week to week. George M. will bring the plastic bag recycling box from Giant. Joe W. will bring copies of the recycling info.

- The farmers market is 8 am to 1 pm. Joe W. will be there from 8-10:30. George M. and Adam H. will be there from 10:30-1. Karyn H. will send out a list through Sign Up Genius for Borough Council members to sign up as well.
- Joe W. can make adhesive stickers of the recycling info for the next week at the farmers market. This weekend he'll bring some paper copies (1 large as a display and several small to hand out) and see what the response is. Steve R. suggested that if we have reusable bags we can put the recycling stickers on them.
- We can look into getting a local grant to cover the cost of purchasing/printing reusable bags for the spring. We could also potentially talk to places like McCaffrey's about purchasing the bags they sell at a marginal cost.
- When we've collected the plastic bags we can either recycle them at one of the supermarkets, or we can send them to Trex to get a bench if we collect enough (500 pounds in 6 months). We need to remember to encourage people to bring other recycleable plastic like bubble wrap.
- Mayor Strouse suggested that going forward we can encourage merchants at the market to direct customers to us for reusable bags.
- Adam H. asked about the movie/public meeting at the County Theater. Joe W. will reach out to Wendy M. to ask about the status of this event and will report back at the November EAC meeting so we can schedule ahead of time with the County Theater. We also need to discuss what else we would like to accomplish by June when the PA decision comes back.
- Adam H. asked if there are any events before the spring where we can have a presence. The Locavore event at Superior Woodcraft may be an opportunity for us to continue outreach with the community. Last year it was held on 2/21.

Old/New Business:

5) George M. suggested we consider applying to the Sustainable PA Communities program. It is likely that Doylestown Borough would already score a lot of points with the program to get started. The program provides guidance for what we would need to do to become a more sustainable municipality. Doylestown Township has completed this program. By the next meeting George M. will get us more information about the program, specifically what the Borough would need to do. George M. will walk us through the website at the next meeting. Mayor Strouse noted that Pittsburgh is a good example of a community that is doing well with the program. He said that there is a specific staff person who will help guide us through the process.

6) Steve R. went to the Sierra Club meeting last month (Ready for 100). The idea is to make 100% of the municipality's electric supply sustainable.

7) Steve R. will keep us updated on Bird Town news.

8) **Adjournment:** George M. moved to adjourn the meeting, and David K. seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:38 pm.

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