

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Attendance: Karen Graziano, Karyn Hyland, Victoria Holderer, George Mullikin, Kristin Winters, Grant Alger, Steve Nelson, Wendy Margolis, Denis Livrone, Mayor Strouse

1) Call to order: Victoria H. called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

2) Approval of minutes: Steve N. moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting, George M. seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.

3) Ready for 100 (Steve N.):

- Steve N. said the subcommittee working on this will be talking Friday morning. They have a working draft that they have reviewed and will now be developing a consensus draft.

4) Green Points (George M.):

- George M. uploaded some documents into the EAC Google folder for the group's review. He added the solar items back in with the same points they had before.
- We are not sure yet if PA is likely to adopt the entire code.
- Grant A. asked if we can adjust the Green Points before the code is adopted, can we also change it later? Karyn H. said that approval of the Green Points does require Council action, and we generally wouldn't want to change it too frequently, so it makes sense to wait for the code adoption.
- Steve N. asked if George M. knows the timing of the new code; George M. said it will go into effect in 2022, but he is not sure when it will be adopted. The code updates will be what's permitted as of 2022; anything already currently permitted will get grandfathered in.
- Mayor Strouse asked George M. about a project the County is working on regarding solar for their buildings throughout the County. It might be worthwhile for the EAC to be part of this conversation. There might be some challenges in the Borough for solar such as the Historic District. Feasible areas to target would primarily be the Justice Center/Parking Garage/Admin Building (the old Justice Center), although they are compromised for solar use in many ways (utilities on the roof, for instance). Steve N. asked if this County project would involve a design proposal; it will, since they will pick and choose an approach and decide what they can afford to do. Grant A. noted that the County had put out a press release re: their Ready for 100 plan.
- For the Green Points, the EAC will now wait for the PA code approval, so this will be off of the agenda for the next meeting.

5) Farmers Market (Victoria H.):

- Victoria H. reported that 2 weekends ago the plant giveaway went well; we gave away swamp milkweed. Next time we'll plan ahead so we can advertise it. The plants were all gone by the end of the Market. It was good timing for the plant giveaway since monarchs (who use milkweed) are active in our area now.

- The plants drew people to the table for the bigger conversation and communication. Karen G. noted it would be good to come up with more ideas to draw attention, for instance a cloth bag giveaway or food.
- 50 plants were given away, which was \$50 of our budget; it is good to use the budget. The EAC is tax exempt.
- Grant A. said when he was at the Farmers Market a few weeks ago someone expressed concern that the shed was left unlocked and items were placed outside. (The EAC supplies were outside too.) We don't know who did this, so just be aware.

6) Waste Haulers (Victoria H.):

- Grant A. forwarded some new waste hauler info today that will be added to the document, otherwise no new information will be added at this time; it will be updated periodically. Victoria H. will send the final version to Karyn H. to be published on the website. Advanced Disposal will be removed from the list because it is part of Waste Management.
- Wendy M. reported that Whitetail raised their prices for recycling.
- Grant A. put NA for some things under Waste Management. He will change this to blank, since it was info the person he spoke to just didn't know.
- Karyn H. asked if there were haulers that didn't respond. There was one - DelGeurico's - so we'll add them with "no response." (A lot of people use them, so it would be valuable to show there was no response.) Denis L. said he saw at his neighbor's that they put trash and recycling in the same truck. The group discussed that this is not info to put in the report, although it helped inspire this project.
- Wendy M. noted it would be good to publicize this list. Victoria H. will send info to Grant A. who will send it to Karyn H. Victoria H. will also send info for the Farmers Market to Grant A., who will forward it to Karyn H. Kristin W. suggested that the heads of each subcommittee can send info to Grant A. when there is information to report, rather than Grant A. soliciting info, and the group agreed. Karyn H. said she's been recycling images from previous years for publication, so we should send fresh info if it is available.
- Karen G. suggested we could do a poster-size version of waste haulers to have at the Market. Victoria H. said having laminated copies of info rather than paper handouts would be helpful. Karyn H. noted she could and will add a QR code to publications to send people to the website.
- Mayor Strouse asked about changes to this info, for instance if we should schedule regular updates; the group agreed. Kristin W. suggested we could add a "current as of (date)" line to publications, and Grant A. suggested we should add an intro paragraph; Victoria H. will add these items to the publications she submits along with any appropriate disclaimers.
- Steve N. noted that a lot of people at the Market have asked if recycling is actually taking place. Grant A. said Waste Management had a whole writeup of how recycling is handled, which is included in the document our group put together.
- Grant A. asked what "Covanta" means on the document; Victoria H. clarified that this is the waste to energy facility.
- This item will be off of the agenda for the next meeting.

7) Outreach & Communication (Grant A.):

- Grant A. sent a spreadsheet to the group summarizing what is on the EAC website and what he found with the audit. Karyn H. has updated quite a bit on the website and it looks better. Grant A. walked the group through the spreadsheet. There are status updates, questions about

content, goals/purposes, ideas for proposed changes/updates, etc. Everything can be filtered. The group agreed this will be very helpful.

- The group first reviewed the “upcoming events” section of the website on the spreadsheet. It seems like the items in this section are links to info, not events. The group felt like this section should be retitled “related info” or something similar. Steve N. noted that this section provides broader info about environmental topics.
- The group reviewed updates that Karyn H. had done and noted there are good links to news and info. Karyn H. said we can add some other sections to our page; the group discussed perhaps environmental topics or environmental news.
- The group decided the mosquito spraying info has been on long enough and can be removed. The Borough Hall energy audit line will be removed. The group also reviewed the section that is specifically about West Nile virus. Kristin W. asked if it is still current and Wendy M. said they’re still spraying for it; the group agreed this is still helpful info so it will be kept.
- The group reviewed the maintenance manual on the website; nobody was sure where it came from. We’ll all look at it for the next meeting so we can each take a closer look and decide if it should be updated, assigned to someone, or maybe rebranded with some more of our info.
- Grant A. will work with Karyn H. on a few more “dead” items he found.
- The group decided we will use the “last updated” column to make sure we’re keeping each item current. If we want to note the date when an item was removed from the website, for example, we’ll add that to the notes.

8) Old/new business; public comment

- **Public comment:**
 - Denis L. is the Chair of the Doylestown Borough Parks and Rec Board and has been on the Board for 30 years. He is at this meeting to see what the EAC does and how it functions, and he noted it is similar to his Board. Denis L. will be on the ballot in November for Ward 2. He handed out info about his background and noted that he was one of the charter members of the Doylestown Twp EAC in the 1980s. Denis L. is a planner for the County and is running unopposed; Mayor Strouse said he’ll be an asset.
- **New business:**
 - Mayor Strouse suggested it would be useful for the EAC to take a more active role in rain garden maintenance throughout the Borough. The rain garden that the EAC did as a demo by the ambulance building would be a good place to start. Wendy M. asked Karyn H. if the ambulance squad said landscapers were going to take over the maintenance; Karyn H. is going to check. Denis L. suggested that there might be other parks where we could do examples. Wendy M. noted that if the EAC and the Parks and Rec Board could get together it might be more feasible to install rain gardens because they need to be maintained; right now we need people power. Karen G. said she’ll do some research on rain gardens. Wendy M. said Phil Ehlinger (Public Works) would be a good resource for information about managing rain gardens on Borough property. The group discussed enforcement of maintenance of basins on private property; Karyn H. stated enforcing rain gardens is difficult from a code enforcement perspective if they comply with the property maintenance code and function properly as a stormwater management facility.
- **Old Business**
 - Wendy said the moratorium on plastic bag bans has been lifted in PA. She asked Victoria H., Grant A., and a group from the Enviro and Rec Committee, including Jen Jarrett, to

come together to review where we're at and look at some other municipalities' plans. We have a draft ordinance which the new group will review, and which would proceed from the EAC to Enviro and Rec and then to Council. Dec 8th is when the new Philadelphia ordinance goes into effect, so the group is aiming to have something by that date. Many people have been asking about plastics and there is still significant interest in our efforts. Steve N. asked if the group will also be looking at outreach; Wendy M. said this will need to be included in the ordinance. She said we have tried to involve businesses before and we need to try to focus on key businesses, since this is a large task. Philadelphia has examples to follow. Steve N. asked if there is a merchant's association. Mayor Strouse said there is Discover Doylestown which targets businesses and residents, but it does not include many restaurants and is mostly focused on events. There is a new business group that has formed that is focused on marketing, but there isn't really a vibrant organization focused on representing merchants. During the pandemic the Borough created an updated list of restaurants so the Borough could stay in contact with them. Wendy M. noted that Philadelphia's work could be instructive.

9) Adjournment: Steve N. moved to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:53 pm.

10) Next meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17th, 2021, at 7:30 pm.