

WARRINGTON TOWNSHP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES TO JANUARY 9, 2008 MEETING

The meeting started at 7:35 PM followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those in attendance were the following EAC members: Todd Baratz, Becky Kiefer, Fred Suffian and Fraser Wall. Also in attendance was Barbara Livrone, Recording Secretary for the WTEAC.

Public Comment – None.

Election of Council Members

For 2008, there are two (2) vacancies on the EAC. Former Chairman, Fred Gaines was appointed to another board and member Fred Achenbach, Jr. resigned from the EAC. Election of officials was tabled by Mr. Baratz until the February meeting. Mr. Wall seconded and all were in favor.

Approval of the December 5, 2007 Minutes

Minutes from the December 5, 2007 were approved by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Wall. All were in favor.

Adopt-A-Road Program Update

Mr. Baratz will contact Paul Gdanski, Director of Public Works to discuss the program and to clarify if the public works department will support the program. The public works department will be involved in posting signs, help to maintain the roads and trash pickup after the collection is made. If the support is made, all the administrative obligations will be presented to the supervisors for approval. The EAC will administer the program.

Clean Energy Outreach Plan Update

Mr. Suffian reported Molly Tsongas; Smart Power sent an e-mail stating the township has sixty (60) sign-ups. Currently, Warrington Township is ranked in the middle of all the townships who are participating in the Clean Energy Outreach Program.

Mrs. Kiefer suggested going to the schools with the Clean Energy power point and presenting the program to the children. Additionally, send flyers home with the children to hand out to their parents. A suggested give away to the children were small trees that could be obtained from the state tree program. Mr. Baratz will follow up with a possible give away that may be appropriate for school aged children.

Mrs. Kiefer suggested having a contest at the elementary and middle schools for the children to create a poster that demonstrates clean energy. The posters can represent

windmills, solar energy, biomass, etc. The posters will be judged and the winner will receive a prize, possibly a twenty five dollar (\$25.00) gift card to an area store. The posters could be displayed at Warrington Day. The council suggested Ivy Ross to take the lead in organizing the contest.

Mrs. Kiefer also suggested taking the power point presentation and speaking to the Rotary and Lions Club, civic and homeowners' organizations and church groups. As a hand-out, she suggested giving the adults a Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulb.

It was suggested to ask Fred Gaines if he could present the Clean Energy Outreach Plan to the Forest Ridge Community Center.

Little Neshaminy Implementation Efforts

Mr. Suffian went on the states website to check the status of the Growing Greener Grant application and there was not any information posted.

Mr. Suffian would like to continue the Little Neshaminy surveys from Warrington residents. Mr. Suffian stated that he needs at least one hundred more in order to have a valid survey. The survey will focus on areas that don't have stormwater controls along the Neshaminy. Suggested controls are rain barrels and rain gardens.

It was suggested that the surveys be handed out by Eagle Scouts and/or older girl scouts and could be incorporated as part of an Earth Day event. Another targeted area could be Upper and Lower Barness Roads and Park Road.

Bucks County Conservation District 2008 Awards Nominations

The nomination for Carol Sautner, Freedom Valley Girl Scouts will be submitted along with a letter of recommendation from the EAC. Mrs. Kiefer will ask the Board of Supervisors to submit a letter of recommendation on Mrs. Sautner's behalf.

Street Tree Inventory Update

Mr. Baratz will contact Mr. Gdanski to find out if the City Green software package which comprises of two licenses has been purchased by the township. The EAC approved of this expenditure at their December 2007 meeting. This new software will aid in inventorying trees. There are approximately six (6) different trees in Warrington Township. The council suggested Ivy Ross to aid in the training of either boy scouts or residents to help identify trees within the township.

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Disposal Update

Mr. Baratz will contact Mr. Gdanski to set up a dumpster near the township building to designate for CFL and fluorescent lights disposal.

Grant Proposals Update

Mr. Suffian reported that the township manager received a letter dated January 6, 2008 from the National Urban and Community Forest Advisory Council denying the EAC's pre-proposal for tree inventory. The NUCFAC felt the project was local in nature and did not meet the state criteria.

Mr. Suffian reported The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant were also rejected by the state.

Mr. Suffian reported the Growing Greener Grant application has not been signed by the Governor and is still pending. Mrs. Kiefer suggested contacting State Representative Kathy Watson to see if she can obtain more information on the status of the grant.

Growing Greener Grant # 2: Part of the next Growing Greener Grant will be to submit a proposal for restoration and stabilization of stream banks at the Fairways Golf Course. Mr. Suffian toured the site with a consultant, Land Studies, Inc. along with Vista volunteers.

Mr. Suffian reported that a second proposal is a WREN grant through the League of Women's Voters. It is a rain barrel and healthy yards concept which evaluates neighborhoods that are in need of infiltration and reduce stormwater runoff.

Storm Drain Labeling Update

Six hundred (600) storm drain labels have been ordered and are waiting to be received.

2008 Bucks Beautiful Garden Fair

The 2008 Bucks Beautiful Garden Fair is being held on Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22, 2008 at Delaware Valley College. The members will be asked to sign up and volunteer at the February meeting. Mrs. Kiefer is going to volunteer 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Friday, along with Mr. Wall who is volunteering from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Friday.

A laptop will display the Clean Energy point power. Clean Energy exhibits will be on hand along with brochures and handouts.

Earth Day 2008

It was discussed to change the Earth Day event from April 19 to April 26 due to Passover plus the availability of volunteers on the 26th. It was reported that Carol Sautner, Freedom Valley Girl Scouts will be involved in the cleanup of Bradford Dam. Mike Smith, troop leader for Boy Scouts Troop # 137 will work at Earth Day if April 26 is the

official Earth Day date. Suggested projects are Little Neshaminy surveys to be handed out by the Eagle Scouts; Storm drain labeling by the boy scouts, rain garden clean-up and other clean-up at the parks; flower planting. A GPS unit was purchased by the township to be used by the Eagle Scouts.

Other Business

Mrs. Kiefer reported according to Second Class Township Code, a member cannot be on a decision making board (i.e., Zoning) and a member of the EAC. Even though Mr. Gaines was a former member of the EAC, he informed Mrs. Kiefer that he would like to be supportive of the EAC and help on special projects.

The contrast trimmed polo shirts were ordered and received for each of the EAC members. The members were pleased with the color and logo of the polo shirts.

Mrs. Kiefer suggested ordering green aprons to be used at different functions.

Mr. Suffian suggested an outline of an EAC website to be presented to the township to post of their website. Mr. Baratz agreed to update the draft EAC website using the outline and other information this is available. Mrs. Kiefer would like the website implementation to be completed by Earth Day.

Mrs. Kiefer announced the 2008 Southeast PA EAC Conference will be held at Villanova University on Saturday, March 8, 2008. The township manager will be notified if there are any members interested in attending.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Wall to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 9:44 PM.