

WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES TO FEBRUARY 6, 2008 MEETING

The meeting started at 7:36 PM followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those in attendance were the following EAC members: Todd Baratz, Becky Kiefer, Fred Suffian, Ivy Ross, Dave Weaver and Paul Gdanski, Director of Public Works. Also in attendance was Barbara Livrone, Recording Secretary for the WTEAC. Members of the public included Nick and Adele Weremeychik.

Public Comment

Mr. and Mrs. Weremeychik stated their interest in becoming members of the EAC. They submitted their resumes to the supervisors to fill two current vacancies. Mr. Weremeychik inquired about the Adopt-a-Road Program that he read in the January 2008 minutes. He asked about litter pickup on Street Road. Mr. Suffian said according to the last PennDOT inquiry, all the streets in the township have been adopted except for a segment on Lower State Road from Pickertown Road to County Line Road. Mrs. Kiefer suggested asking PennDOT where the signs are located on their state roads which signify the organization that is responsible for the litter clean-up.

Approval of the January 9, 2008 Minutes

Minutes from the January 9, 2008 were approved by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weaver. All were in favor.

Election of Officers

Mr. Baratz made a motion to nominate Mr. Suffian as Chairman. Mrs. Ross and Mr. Weaver seconded the motion. Mr. Suffian nominated Mrs. Ross as Vice Chairman and Mr. Baratz seconded the motion. Mr. Weaver made a motion to nominate Mr. Baratz as secretary and Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. All were in favor to approve the nominations.

Mrs. Kiefer explained the members are equal on the Board. Mrs. Kiefer is liaison from the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Weaver is a member representing the parks and recreation and Mr. Wall is a member representing the planning commission. The chairman is the person who runs the meeting, prepares the agenda; the vice chair assists the chair and stands in for the chair if the chair is not present. The secretary of the council is responsible to gather, organize and follow through with information; and to make contact with other organizations.

Adopt-A-Road Program Update

The Adopt-a-Road Program will be presented at the February 12, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Suffian and Mr. Gdanski will be present at the meeting and Mr. Suffian will give a brief explanation to the Board and ask for the supervisors' support.

Mrs. Kiefer suggested an inventory should be prepared for all the state roads that have been adopted.

The township's program will consist of an organization to adopt a two mile road for a period of two years.

The council suggested adding this program to the township's Comcast television channel. Verizon's channel 40 will be on line sometime during the month of February.

Clean Energy Outreach Plan Update

Mrs. Ross followed up with the schools regarding the November 30, 2007 letters that were mailed asking for the schools to support the township in the clean energy campaign by creating a fundraising program for the schools.

Mrs. Ross stated that Millcreek Elementary only commits to two fundraisers per year and was not interested. The school may entertain a clean energy poster contest if the EAC submits a letter of explanation.

Mrs. Ross said that Barclay Elementary School was not sure. The letter is to be submitted to the Home and School Association contact, Patty Shavler. As far as the poster contest, Barclay has a spring fair and would consider Clean Energy as a subject for their poster contest.

Mrs. Ross did not receive any feed back from Titus Elementary School.

Mr. Suffian will contact Jamison Elementary School to see if there is an interest.

Mrs. Ross contacted the middle schools and they were not interested.

Another letter was submitted to the high schools' environmental club.

Mrs. Ross will contact St. Joseph's/St. Robert's School.

Mrs. Ross suggested the third and fourth grades study the environment and the EAC may get a better response if the request is submitted directly to the teacher. Mrs. Ross will follow up to find out if this approach would be allowed.

Mrs. Kiefer suggested a prize to be given out each grade. A suggested gift certificate was from Borders, Target. Mrs. Kiefer also suggested the clean energy poster contest could be presented at Earth Day, a picture of the poster(s) presented in the summer newsletter and a proclamation presented at an EAC meeting.

Mrs. Kiefer suggested a theme for the poster contest to be: "Why should people sign up for clean energy?" An example could be to keep fish living in the streams.

The winning posters will be on display in the lobby and/or township meeting room. The poster contest could be advertised at stores and the posters could be placed at the stores after they are judged.

Mr. Suffian suggested "Quiet Riot" has a program targeted for schools to help the township reach their goal. Mrs. Ross will contact the group to see if there are any fees involved.

It was reported that the EAC has not received any more business sign-up.

Clean Energy will be a focus at Bucks Beautiful and when someone signs up, a CFL bulb will be given out or a gift card i.e., Dunkin Donuts.

The township will receive twenty dollars (\$20.00) from each signup on a quarterly basis. There was discussion as to how to spend the funds. A motion was made by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mrs. Ross to hand out a CFL bulb and a fifteen dollar (\$15.00) gift certificate to all new clean energy sign-ups. All agreed.

Mr. Baratz will contact the Warrington Regal to see if they would be willing to donate movie gift certificates.

Little Neshaminy Implementation Efforts

Mr. Suffian reported the 2006 and 2007 Growing Greener Grant application decision will be decided sometime in February 2008.

Bucks County Conservation District 2008 Awards Nominations

The nomination for Carol Sautner, Freedom Valley Girl Scouts has been submitted to the Bucks County Conservation District. The award date was not known.

Street Tree Inventory Update

Mr. Suffian reported the City Green software package has been purchased by the township. Maps of streets within a subdivision will be printed along with an inventory form for the Scouts. The trees will be numbered and the numbers will be on the inventory form; the scout will identify the tree and answer the questions. Mrs. Ross

expressed concern that Earth Day may be too early to identify trees because the leaves may not be matured. This task was suggested for an Eagle Scout project.

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Disposal Update

Mr. Gdanski stated the 4 yard dumpster at Valley Road could be moved to any location in the township for the disposal of CFL's. A few questions need to be addressed before the program goes into effect: how to notify residents and are the CFL's hazardous waste? Mr. Gdanski will contact a hauler to see if the lights are hazardous waste.

Grant Proposals Update

Mr. Suffian reported the Growing Greener Act is still outstanding. Mr. Weaver suggested contacting Carol Rice, Park and Recreation Director of Philadelphia who has a lot of information on obtaining grants and maybe a source to consider.

Storm Drain Labeling Update

Six hundred (600) storm drain labels have been delivered. Maps will be available to the scouts to perform the labeling at Earth Day.

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. Mr. Suffian is setting up Friday morning and staying until 1:00 PM. Adele Weremeychik will volunteer Friday morning. 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. Mr. Suffian will come back Saturday evening to take the display down.

Clean Energy sign up sheets and a fact sheet will be a handout at Bucks Beautiful. Also, the display board containing posters about Clean Energy will be on display. A power point presentation will also be at the booth.

Mr. Suffian sent out an email to surrounding EAC from the Clean Energy contact list and no one responded to co-partner with Warrington Township. Mrs. Kiefer suggested contacting the surrounding townships to obtain the name of their EAC chairman.

Earth Day 2008

Two hundred and fifty letters were mailed on January 25, 2008 to businesses located in Warrington Township asking for donations to the Earth Day event.

Mrs. Kiefer suggested the possibility of the clean energy poster contest to be presented at Earth Day.

Mrs. Ross suggested "Quiet Riot" to present their program after lunch at Earth Day. Mrs. Ross will call the company to find out if they charge a fee for the event.

A GPS for detecting inlets and detention basins may be available for Earth Day.

Girl Scout Troop # 2594, Cub Scout # 172, Boy Scout Troop # 137, Cub Scout Pack # 318 have confirmed their participation at Earth Day. Carol Sautner, leader for FVGSC has invited Mr. Suffian to one of their February meetings to present our request for volunteers. Mrs. Saunter's Girl Scout troop will continue to clean up Bradford Dam sometime in the spring.

Another project for Earth Day is the distribution of questionnaires for the Little Neshaminy survey.

Mr. Suffian suggested a follow up will be needed to contact last year's businesses who made a donation to Earth Day. Mrs. Kiefer asked for a list of all the state roads that have been adopted, contact these organizations and invite them to participate in the road clean up program for Earth Day.

To date, Dunkin Donuts has made a commitment. A monetary donation has been made by County Line Fence. North Wales Water Authority had made a commitment to donate bottled water.

Mrs. Kiefer will contact the President of the Lions Club and Rotary Club to find out if there is an interest in street clean-up at Earth Day.

Mr. Suffian prepared Clean Energy posters for the display board to be presented at Earth Day.

Mrs. Kiefer will find out if a master gardener from the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service would be available to teach children how to plant flowers.

The Council will ask Lowe's and Home Depot to donate flowers (annuals) for Earth Day or purchase them.

Central Bucks German Club offered to help out at Earth Day. Mr. Weremeychik suggested a heavy clean-up by their club at the Upper Nike Park. The public works department will provide a pickup truck to haul away the items.

Mrs. Weremeychik suggested the soccer club and Warrington Athletic Association to perform a clean-up around their fields at Earth Day. The Council suggested a letter to be sent to both organizations asking for volunteers.

Other Business

- Mr. Gdanski will contact the township's communication officer regarding the current audio formats and slides. Mrs. Ivy commented on some of the slides the lettering is yellow with a white background thus causing the wording hard to read. Website material for the EAC will be given to Mr. Gdanski to submit for the township's website.
- Spring Newsletter - The EAC will have a full page in the township's spring 2008 newsletter. Some articles and pictures will be presented. Suggested articles are: Earth Day activities, Clean Energy, Composting, listing of projects and EAC accomplishments.
- Composting - Mrs. Kiefer reported there are three locations within Bucks County that have composting sites. They are located in lower, upper and central Bucks. Mrs. Kiefer reported the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service (PSCES) would like to schedule a composting class to be held at the Warrington Township building. The class will be available to thirty three (33) families within Bucks County. PSCES will sponsor the class through funds they received by a grant. They will set up the registration, advertise and also list the EAC as the support agency in their "Over the Fence" newsletter. The class will be from 7:00-8:30 PM and from 8:30 to 9:00 PM they will hand out a composter. The Council suggested the class to be held on either Tuesday, April 29, 2008; Wednesday, April 30 and Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

Mrs. Ross suggested advertising this class at Bucks Beautiful Garden Fair, have a sign-up sheet and display the composter. Additionally, display the composter at Earth Day.

- Aprons - The Council agreed to purchase four to six green aprons at a cost of \$13.00 each. The aprons will include the EAC logo.
- EAC Interview - Mrs. Kiefer reported the township would like to tape an interview with the chairman of the EAC and herself as liaison to the council to comment about EAC projects. The taping will be held at Central Bucks South sometime in February. It was suggested for this taping to be aired on the township's television channel.
- Earth Day Sites for Kids - Mrs. Weremeychik suggested a "walk-in-the-park" site that explains about vegetation, trees, etc; games to be played on line such as clean up your woods. Additionally, make room for an area on the website and call it "Earth Day Sites for Kids." These sites will be safe and educational for children to learn about the environment and recycling.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mr. Suffian to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 9:52 PM.