

WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES TO JULY 2, 2008 MEETING

The meeting started at 7:38 PM followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those in attendance were the following EAC members: Todd Baratz, Becky Kiefer, Ivy Ross, Fred Suffian and Nick and Adele Weremeychik. Also in attendance was Paul Gdanski, Director of Public Works and Barbara Livrone, Recording Secretary for the WTEAC. A member of the public, Lynn Laurelli who resides on Sarah's Lane was also present.

Public Comment

Introductions were made by the EAC members to Lynn Laurelli. Ms. Laurelli read about the EAC on the township's website, viewed the EAC slides on the township's TV channel and attended Bucks Beautiful. She expressed an interest in the council.

Approval of the June 4, 2008 Minutes

Minutes from the June 4, 2008 were tabled by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mrs. Ross. Mr. Baratz will prepare the minutes and present them to the council. All were in favor.

Healthy Yard Mailing Update

Mr. Suffian reported during the second week of June five hundred and fifteen (515) healthy yards forms were mailed which included a cover letter, description of a healthy yard, the healthy yard registration form, clean energy sign up form and a two page Little Neshaminy survey. These were mailed to a non development area with no storm water management and history. This area included Neshaminy Valley and Neshaminy Garden. As of the meeting date, twenty five (25) surveys were returned along with six (6) registration forms. Mrs. Kiefer suggested when the final results are in to prepare a report and present it on the website, the newsletter and on the township's TV channel.

Wren Grant Update

Paul Gdanski, Nick and Adele Weremeychik attended a project leader orientation and training meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters of PA on June 17 and 18, 2008. Mr. Gdanski distributed a report from the meeting to the council members and stated an interim report to WREN is due by December 8.

Mr. Suffian stated the township will receive \$4997 in grant money from WREN. The contract is from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. Twenty five percent (25%) of the funds will be mailed to the township to start purchasing materials. The township is committed to promoting healthy yard programs through mailings, newsletters, exhibits at Warrington Day, recruiting volunteers for basin plantings, purchasing plants for the basins, holding a

planting event, purchase and install a weather resistant sign at the detention basin, arrange for a contractor to conduct twenty five (25) homeowner healthy yard assessments, summarize the changes the homeowners is making as a result of the effort, print and distribute the winning poster/brochures that is going to be conducted at Jamison Elementary School, purchase rain barrels for a workshop and submit interim progress reports.

Mrs. Ross suggested the plantings to be conducted at Earth Day 2009 to fulfill part of the grant.

Mrs. Kiefer discussed the evaluation for twenty five (25) healthy yards should be opened up to the public or held at a public location such as the township building or a school. All were in agreement.

A rain barrel should be placed at a visible location. One suggestion was the water and sewer department building with a sign explaining the rain barrel. This location would provide good visibility.

Mr. Suffian mentioned a website called greatamericanrainbarrel.com is an excellent resource for rain barrels.

One thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1250) has been budgeted for rain barrels and their parts. Mr. Gdanski will purchase the rain barrel diverters.

Mr. Baratz made a motion not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to retro fit twenty (20) rain barrels. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Suffian suggested the council to view a rain garden which resembles a tree located at Jamison Elementary School.

Educational brochures, curriculum and posters from the WREN meeting were brought back to be used at future Earth and Warrington Days. It was suggested to hang the posters at the Lower Nike Park.

Growing Greener Grant Update

Mr. Gdanski is going to set up a meeting with Land Studies to obtain a proposal.

Adopt-A-Road Program Update

Mr. Gdanski reported all the Adopt a Road signs have been installed for the four (4) organizations who have made a commitment to the program. The township received a new application from Mr. and Mrs. Buss who are a resident of Wodock Avenue. They are requesting to adopt Kansas Road. Mr. Suffian requested the current Adopt a Road map be updated.

Clean Energy Outreach Plan Update

Mr. Suffian reported as of June 8, 2008 the township has received seventy (70) sign-ups. The goal is to obtain two hundred (200) by September 30, 2008.

Stream Signs

A handout from Fraser Wall was distributed to the members depicting suggested names for the streams that are not currently named in the township.

The naming of streams will be made part of an exhibit for Warrington Day. The unnamed streams will be numbered on a map. There will be a form for the person to complete. If there are numerous selections, the EAC will decide upon the selection. All were in agreement. The named stream selections will be sent to the USGS for approval.

Earth Day Follow-Up

The finalized framed posters thanking the Earth Day contributors will either be presented at a Board of Supervisors meeting or hand delivered to the individual businesses before the Warrington Day event. A replicate of the posters will be displayed at the township building. Included at the meeting will be recognition of the Earth Day volunteers. A news release will be submitted to the newspaper. The proposed presentation will be in the fall.

\$1500.00 from the Earth Day budget was transferred by the township into the EAC budget.

Warrington Day – September 13, 2008

Rain gardens made out of five gallon bottles resembling a terrarium was an idea for a tangible exhibit at Warrington Day. Native plants, soil and other materials will be needed to assemble the rain gardens. One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) was a suggested money amount for the purchases.

Volunteers will be needed to solicit clean energy sign ups. Money will be set aside for lunch passes.

Clean energy t-shirts are requested to be purchased for the volunteers. It was suggested to contact Josh Sweet from the German Honor Society and Ian Smith, CB South teacher to see if they could volunteer their respective students at Warrington Day.

Mr. Baratz made a motion to allocate approximately one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) for the acquisition of materials for Warrington Day. Some items to purchase will be t-shirts (\$350.00); terrarium materials (\$300.00) and lunch passes (\$100.00). Mr. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Other Business

Storm Drain Labeling – Mrs. Ross reported Troop # 21813 led by Amy Edenson has volunteered to label storm drains in Warrington Ridge and Forest Glen development sometime during the summer. Their troop will need approximate 200 labels. The council approved the purchase of three hundred (300) labels at their June 2008 meeting.

CFL disposal – Home Depot announced that it will take back old compact fluorescent bulbs as part of a recycling program for the bulbs. Mrs. Ivy suggested that an announcement to be placed on the website and TV channel.

Energy audit – DEP is promoting a new Local Government Greenhouse Gas Pilot Grant Program which will provide Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to a municipality to assist with developing a greenhouse gas inventory and establishing a climate change action plan that reflects the needs of the municipality. The deadline to apply for this pilot program is August 29, 2008. The township will need a contractor to underwrite to meet DEP requirements. Overall, anything that produces greenhouse gas, i.e., buildings and vehicles are part of this emission and is to be included in the inventory.

Mrs. Kiefer made a recommendation for Warrington Township to research grant money to help purchase hybrid vehicles for the public works department and police detectives. A neighboring township, Bensalem has already made a purchase of hybrid vehicles.

Township Fall Newsletter – Mr. Suffian has written four (4) articles to be presented for the townships fall newsletter, i.e., healthy yards.

Tree Survey – Mr. Suffian reported that an employee of the EPA is working with the City Greene software that the EAC purchased. Contact has been made with Delaware Valley College to work with the EAC on our tree inventory program. Additionally, an Eagle Scout is interested on working the EAC for his Eagle Scout project.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weremeychik to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 9:38 PM.