

# WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

## MINUTES TO JANUARY 7, 2009 MEETING

The meeting started at 7:33 PM followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those in attendance were the following EAC members: Todd Baratz, Supervisor Becky Kiefer, liaison, Fred Suffian, Dave Weaver and Nick and Adele Weremeychik. Also in attendance was Barbara Livrone, Recording Secretary for the WTEAC. Members of the public included Lynn Laurelli, Ernest Montella and a resident from Street Road.

### **Nominations of Council Members**

Mrs. Kiefer opened the floor to nominations and elections of officers for 2009.

#### Chairman

Mr. Baratz nominated Mr. Suffian as Chairman and Mr. Weremeychik seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

#### Vice Chairman

There were two nominations: Mrs. Ross and Mr. Weremeychik. Mrs. Kiefer asked for a vote. Two voted for Mr. Weremeychik and three votes were cast to Mrs. Ross. By a vote of 3 to 2, Mrs. Ross was nominated as Vice Chairperson. All were in favor.

#### Secretary

Mr. Weremeychik nominated Mr. Baratz as secretary. Mrs. Weremeychik seconded the nomination. All were in favor.

### **Public Comment**

Introductions were made by the council members to the members of the public. It was noted Lynn Laurelli has been a regular attendee to the council meetings.

Mr. Montella submitted an application to adopt Georges Lane as part of the Adopt a Road Program. Mr. Montella has been cleaning Georges Lane since 1979. Mr. Suffian explained the program to Mr. Montella stating the general intent to adopt a road within the township is one that is not part of a subdivision, to clean up the litter for a two mile stretch of road four times a year.

Mrs. Kiefer suggested placing a sign at the beginning of the Georges Lane cul-de-sac acknowledging Mr. Montella's clean-up of Georges Lane.

A motion was made by Mr. Baratz to accept Mr. Montella's application by amending it to install one sign at the beginning of the cul-de-sac. Mrs. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **Approval of the December 3, 2008 Minutes**

Minutes from the December 3, 2008 meeting, were approved by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weaver. All were in favor. Mr. Suffian abstained.

### **WREN Grant Update**

The interim progress report was mailed to WREN and to date there has not been an update. The rain barrel brochure was approved by the League of Women Voters and copies will be ordered from Copy Post.

### **Growing Greener Grant Update**

Mr. Suffian reported the township's public works drilled holes and placed brackets in front of the townships basin and the basin located at Warwick Road.

The DEP's planting plan recommended a smaller caliber tree. The EAC is hoping to obtain another grant through the Bucks County Conservation District to purchase trees. The EAC is waiting to hear if the Tree Vitalize application will be accepted and approved.

Additionally, the EAC hopes to start a third basin within the township.

### **Clean Energy Outreach Plan Update**

Mr. Suffian reported that Andrew Voris from SmartPower is coming to a meeting to speak to Bux Mont Unitarian Church to solicit signups and is willing to continue to help the township.

Mr. Suffian reported Central Bucks South seniors are in need of community service and he suggested they help the EAC with the Clean Energy Outreach Plan. The seniors could go door-to-door soliciting clean energy signups, set up a table in front of a business or set up a phone bank to call businesses. Their labor could be used as a match for other grants.

Earth day 2009 is the date to meet the township's goal to obtain two hundred signups. To date, the township is approximately 129 short. If the goal is met the township will receive a solar panel to be placed at IPW Park.

The township paid the second installment on clean energy and is now purchasing ten percent (10%).

## **Stream Signs**

Mr. Baratz will select the names submitted from the Warrington Day signups and pre determine the naming of streams using the guidelines. Mr. Baratz will present his recommendations at the February meeting.

Mrs. Kiefer recommended visiting the streams that have not been adopted and naming them based on floral, fauna or a historical structure in the area, thus giving the stream an appropriate name.

## **Other Business**

Mrs. Kiefer requested a copy of the minutes to be forwarded to the township manager and also any check requests to purchase items for the EAC by e-mail.

Mrs. Kiefer also stated Mr. Weaver represents the Park and Recreation Board. The Ordinance establishing the EAC specifies two members are represented by the Park and Recreation, Planning Commission and/or Bike and Hike Board. Fraser Wall has resigned from the Planning Commission and EAC therefore another member will be appointed to represent the Planning Commission at future EAC meetings.

### ➤ Earth Day

A mailing was sent out to businesses requesting donations for Earth Day. Approximately one hundred and ten were mailed targeting the larger businesses and restaurants within the township.

### ➤ Bucks Beautiful 2009 Garden and Home Show – March 20, 21 & 22, 2009

A workshop has been scheduled for January 27, 2009 sponsored by Bucks Beautiful requesting the attendance of each exhibitor to attend. Lynn Laurelli will attend the workshop and report to the EAC at the February 4, 2009 meeting.

### ➤ Power-Save Energy Savers

The township purchased a power-save energy saver to be placed at the water and sewer department building located at Turk Road. The purchase price was \$299.00. Mr. Baratz stated the savings could be between five and twenty five percent electric usage savings. An evaluation will be made to calculate the savings.

### ➤ Permanent Interpretative Signs

Mr. Suffian asked for comments to the design of the interpretative sign which was emailed to each of the members. He would like to finalize the signs and then place the order. The signs are made specifically for outdoor use with an

aluminum frame to be mounted. Supports will need to be purchased. One sign will be placed at the IPW rain garden and the other sign will be installed at the naturalized detention basin at the township building.

➤ Addition of additional members to the EAC

The council discussed adding additional members to the Board. In order to increase participation, an alternate member was considered. An alternate is defined as someone who can vote when the primary member is not present. The alternate serves at the will of council and is an active member. The voting members will currently continue at four (4).

An amendment to the Ordinance is not needed. Mrs. Kiefer suggested the request should be in a form of an e-mail to the township manager requesting from the EAC to the Board of Supervisors the addition of alternate members.

Mr. Weaver made a motion to request the Board of Supervisors expand the membership of the board of the EAC to include two (2) alternate members who may vote when one or more of the other members are not present. Mr. Baratz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

➤ Land Studies, Inc.

Mr. Suffian reported a cost estimate was submitted from Land Studies for a project to stabilize the stream at Fairways Golf Course. This could be utilized as future grant expenditures.

➤ Re-appointment for Mrs. Weremeychik

Mrs. Kiefer reported Mrs. Weremeychik was reappointed to the EAC by the Board of Supervisors. This is a five year reappointment.

➤ Bucks County Planning Commission 2008 Year in Review

Mrs. Kiefer handed out the Bucks County Planning Commission's 2008 Year in Review brochure noting environmental planning and what the projects the county are involved in.

➤ Expansion of Township Building

The township hired Donovan and Associates to design the expansion. Mrs. Kiefer discussed sustainable development and environmentally sound building, i.e., materials and roof. She noted the company did not include any LEED construction for the township building. A future meeting will be set up to discuss this type of construction.

➤ Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles

Mrs. Kiefer, a member of the TMA (Transportation Management Association of Bucks County) has been discussing the conversion of township and county vehicles to compressed natural gas (CNG). Mrs. Kiefer is requesting from Warrington Township to be the first township to present an educational forum to other Central Bucks municipalities on April 1, 2009. A vehicle will be available for driving. A possible location will be at the township building. Other areas in Pennsylvania, i.e., State College and Bensalem Township have CNG vehicles. A website has been set up for more information on the CNG [www.bctma.com](http://www.bctma.com).

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weaver to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 9:16 PM.