

**RADNOR TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MINUTES

The September meeting of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to order by Josh Hilbert at 6:00 P.M. on September 25, 2014 at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, Radnorshire Room, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Those present were:

Josh Hilbert, Chairperson
Sloan Walker, Vice Chairperson
Anne Poulin
Luke Clark, Parks and Recreation Representative
Stephen Elliot
Skip Kunda, Planning Commission Representative
Matthew Holtman

Those not present were:

Sally Mattison
Daniel Meier

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hilbert called the group to order.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2014 MINUTES

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the August 28, 2014 EAC meeting were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hilbert made the following announcements about upcoming local events:

- Chester County Citizens for Climate Protection – Are We Making Progress? Oct. 8 at WestChester Borough Hall.
- DVGBC (information on their website) – Green Apple Day of Service, Sept 27th.
- Radnor’s website: National Drug Take-Back Day this Saturday 10-2:00 at Municipal Building
- Recycling day – anything with a plug, 9-1:00 November 1 at Municipal Building.
- PA Environmental Council website is announcing a group renewable energy purchasing opportunity. Groundswell, a DC-based organization, will negotiate on behalf of groups for 100% renewable energy. Express interest via the online form. Deadline is Oct. 23. No commitment required until you’re offered a price and contract. The EAC will find out if municipal groups can participate.

WORKGROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Radnor Green Team – Comments on Electric Purchasing RFP

Mr. Walker made the following comments. On Thursday there was a meeting chaired by Melissa Conn. Topics included green power purchasing, greening of the vehicle fleet, and overall green purchasing. Melissa reported that there's a major office supply vendor, Office Basics, that lists green items. She's looking at ways to make this more user-friendly for staff as they're making selection decisions. There was some follow-up discussion on the vehicle fleet. We still need some clarity on where in the process analysis of green options will occur. The green power purchasing RFP was also discussed. The Green Team has been in communication with the Municipal Utility Alliance about a group purchasing option and investigating what it would cost for the Township to join in. But the EAC needs to keep its original goals in mind of reducing carbon emissions, not strictly reducing costs.

WREN Grant

Ms. Poulin gave an update on the WREN grant. Work is not required to start until spring. We are currently looking for a coalition of people to participate. There is a June 15th deadline to use the money, so it will have to come together quickly. Significant expenses include soil and educational signage.

Greenways and Open Space

Ms. Poulin also made an update on the Greenways and Open Space committee. This was on the Commissioners' agenda last week but it got bumped. So it is on the slate for mid-October now. The committee will prioritize areas for development to create links throughout the township; then they'll try to find funding for them.

Community Environmental Education/Awareness

Ms. Poulin also noted that Birdtown is working with a variety of schools to keep their profile high. They currently need some business sponsors to pay for banners. Cost is in the range of \$500 per banner for 2 years; they need a commitment of 5 banners.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Kunda noted that there was no meeting in August and he was on vacation in September. But the October meeting will be big and will address the Ardrossen plan and the Biomed "as built" proposal. That meeting will take place October 6.

Mr. Clark mentioned the Fall Harvest Pumpkin Patch on Oct. 6 from 1-4:00. In addition, the Parks board members went out and examined all of the parks to identify current maintenance and improvement requirements. They will be coordinating those requirements with the Administration's guidelines and budgets for the next 4-5 years. New Development funds are built in to that process. The proposal to build new cell towers was discussed for 3 hours with the providers: CTI Towers, Towers of PA, and a vendor that works with ATT. The Willows, Fenimore Woods and 1 other park would be affected. A 'Monopines' approach is being proposed. It is anticipated that this will generate \$3000 per month per site with additional funds allocated for improvements. There will be 4 renewable terms of 5 years each. The money is not

earmarked for the parks. The EAC not been asked to do any impact research or review. EAC members noted that backup generators pose risks of fuel and noise pollution. Another possibility is to use arrays of shorter antennas using existing power poles. The tower bases will be white, fenced-off areas 50 feet on a side. The next task is to put some questions together to the cell tower companies.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Walker discussed the streetlight conversion project. A recently converted LED light in his neighborhood generated a complaint by a neighbor that it was too bright. Mr. Walker asked Mr. Norcini if there was a less bright option or setting. The response was that he is not able to obtain a lower wattage LED for that application. When pressed, he said there was a fixture with 3 settings but that it's not typically used in that kind of application. The bulb in question was replaced with an HPS (high-pressure sodium) fixture, which is less efficient than an LED setup. Mr. Kunda noted that there is currently a shortage and a waiting period to get the LED bulbs. Could LED bulbs be used strategically – maybe spaced out? What is the shortage – all LEDs? Multi-setting LEDs? Is cost a factor? We should ask the Green Team LED task force for input. Mr. Hilbert suggested moving the LED project up as a priority because it seems like now is the time to start making progress. Mr. Elliot volunteered to help with this effort.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Walker discussed the Watershed Alliance of South Eastern Pennsylvania. He sent a link to the EAC members prior to the meeting. PEC is involved, William Penn Foundation, and the Philadelphia Water Dept. There is some interesting work on new rain gardens and on the planning and promotion of stormwater facilities and best practices. Mr. Walker proposed that the EAC join the Alliance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made and seconded, the meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Holtman