

**RADNOR TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MINUTES

The October meeting of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to order by Josh Hilbert at 6:00 P.M. on October 23, 2014 at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, Radnorshire Room, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Those present were:

Josh Hilbert, Chairperson
Sloan Walker, Vice Chairperson
Skip Kunda, Planning Commission Representative
Sally Mattison
Matthew Holtman

Those not present were:

Anne Poulin
Luke Clark, Parks and Recreation Representative
Stephen Elliot
Daniel Meier

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hilbert called the group to order.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2014 MINUTES

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the September 25, 2014 EAC meeting were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) is planning its annual sustainable energy conference, November 12 in Philadelphia. The focus is on how energy efficiency can be a tool to support affordable housing and equitable development. www.ecasavesenergy.org

There will be an Electronics recycling day event November 1st at the Township building. Air conditioners will be accepted.

The deadline for participating in the Penn Environmental Council (PEC) group purchase for renewable energy program, Groundswell, is tonight.

WORKGROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

Radnor Green Team – Comments on Electric Purchasing RFP

Mr. Walker said that the electric purchasing RFP was at the top of the agenda at the most recent meeting. It has been decided to move away from the RFP approach in order to avoid delays. The Municipal Alliance/Constellation and Groundswell organizations seem to provide good options. The goal will be to move more expeditiously and seek bids from these groups. Mr. Kunda noted that there is a separate energy buyer for the school district. It was suggested that the EAC keep Leo Bernabei informed. Mr. Walker said he would reach out to Mr. Bernabei once we have more information on the current bids. Perhaps including the school district could help us reduce the price further.

There was good news on green vehicles: Melissa Conn has shared the draft budget, which includes a hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle for Public Works for 2015, and a similar vehicle for each of 2016 and 2017. EAC should follow up during the purchasing process to make sure the Township has all the support and information it needs.

There was some discussion of natural gas-powered vehicles, their relative carbon footprint, and refueling issues. Most of the Township's vehicles are heavy trucks. This could be a big opportunity for improvement.

Ms. Mattison spoke with Bob Hale. Steve Norcini is trying to get money for the lighting retrofit into the township budget for next year. There will be a status update in November or December on whether that effort was successful. If it is successful, Bob Hale will pursue additional bids for comparison.

Mr. Hilbert presented some data on the ratio of waste to recycling in Radnor township. The percent of waste that is recycled has increased steadily over the period 2005-2013. It would be interesting to compare with Lower Merion, Swarthmore, Haverford, and other comparable communities. Mr. Holtman volunteered to take a look at the data.

Ms. Mattison attended a meeting of local EACs at Haverford last week. Each EAC spoke about a current project. Haverford has a program called "100 rain gardens in 10 years." Partnering with PRC on grant projects. WREN is also looking for people to work on stormwater ordinances. Ms. Mattison discussed the search for green power. Awareness of the municipal buying program was very low. Some participants were talking about recycling. Haverford thinks they have low rates overall; Upper Darby has the same concern, and it seems to be a neighborhood-specific problem. Haverford has a point-of-sale bamboo ordinance, and Lower Merion is planning to enact one. Residents who sell their homes must get rid of all bamboo on the property. Haverford has lots of information on their website on how to recycle things. Lower Merion has Green Awards for things like businesses doing something environmentally friendly. Someone mentioned a program in Maryland called Lawns to Woodlands that is working on reforestation. Ms. Mattison also mentioned that there was great interest in Radnor's tree giveaway program. In summary, this was a really valuable event and we hope it will happen every year.

WREN Grant

Mr. Holtman mentioned that the Community Garden Club in Wayne has expressed interest in participating in the garden project. Ms. Poulin said she would follow up with them.

Greenways and Open Space

Community Environmental Education/Awareness

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Kunda provided a brief update on the Planning Commission. The Biomed proposal was not discussed. The commissioners were directed to review the Ardrossen proposal. It appears that they a trail on Newtown Road is not feasible because the stone wall will not leave enough space for an ADA-compliant trail. Some discussion of the vegetative barrier; some evergreens could be added, some older trees added, and the width of the barrier increased to better hide the houses. The Commissioners can require an upgraded border if they want.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no old business.

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