**Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council Annual Report 2021**

1. **Introduction**

The Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (“EAC”) provides leadership and guidance on environmental and sustainability matters to Radnor Township staff, Board of Commissioners, and community members. In addition, the EAC serves an important role in providing local community environmental education through regular programming at its monthly televised meetings and through special programs and events. The EAC’s proactive approach to preserving and enhancing the environment in Radnor Township aligns with Radnor’s motto of “making a great place even better” and is reflected in its many sustainability initiatives. The EAC’s approach to enhancing sustainability and preserving the environment is to demonstrate leadership at the municipal level and to inspire action at the individual level. The Radnor EAC consists of seven at large voting members and up to four liaison members.

1. **Changes in Leadership and Structure**
2. In January, Matthew Holtman stepped down as chair of the EAC and Margaret Reinhart was elected.
3. Moira Mulroney, president of the Board of Commissioners (BOC), and Melissa Conn, staff member of Radnor Township were appointed as new liaisons. Melissa Conn also has a part-time role as sustainability officer.
4. New members jointed the EAC: Ray Adams and Lisa Hallowell. Existing members continued in their roles: Sid Singh, Donnelle Jageman, and Sara Pilling. Sara is also liaison from the Green Team. One position remains open as of December 2021.
5. The respective roles of the EAC and the Green Team were clarified. The Green Team is associated with the EAC and will concentrate on energy and sustainability solutions, whereas the EAC will deal with environmental issues such as environmental education, pollution, pesticide use, and others.
6. **Activities in 2021**
7. At the request of concerned citizens of Chester, the EAC reviewed information about the Covanta Waste Incinerator in Chester, PA. In response to this, the EAC drafted a zero-waste management resolution, which included phasing out the Covanta Incinerator and working toward a zero waste plan. The resolution stated that Radnor Township is requesting Delaware County to reconsider renewing the contract with Covanta incinerator facility because of Covanta’s detrimental effects on the health of the citizens of Chester, and because it requires a minimum amount of trash in order to not be charged additional fees. However, the resolution was not approved by the BOC.

Although there was the BOC did not approve the resolution, a letter to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was drafted by the EAC in September. The letter was in opposition to the renewal of the Title V operating permit for the Covanta incinerator. This letter was in response to the PA-DEP’s solicitation for input regarding the renewal of Covanta’s license. After minor revisions, the EAC voted unanimously to send the letter.

1. The BOC asked the EAC to prepare a report regarding pesticide use against Spotted Lanternflies. Certain areas in the vicinity had begun such spraying, and the EAC was to determine the hazards and benefits of such spraying. The EAC’s report stated that the environmental and health risks were such that spraying was not recommended at this time. To date, no spraying was initiated or approved in Radnor Township.
2. The EAC had a booth at the October Wayne Fall Festival where we handed out literature on lawn maintenance and pesticide use, and conducted a survey of area residents as to their personal environmental priorities. Residents who filled out a survey were automatically entered into the free raffle for two gift baskets. Two winners received baskets. Over 50 people filled out the survey; the overwhelming first concern was the use of one-time plastics in the township. The Green Team shared the table; their main promotions were reducing energy use in homes/businesses by 2035, purchasing renewable electricity by 2023, participating in legislative advocacy for a clean energy economy, and when appropriate, switching to all-electric heating/cooling systems
3. A proposal and full job description for a full time Sustainability Manager/Officer was presented to the BOC during the budget meetings. The BOC decided not to fund this position.
4. A meeting was held between members of the EAC and Dr. Stevenson, principal at Radnor Elementary School. Ray Adams and Lisa Hallowell proposed to give educational programs to the 5th graders at Radnor Elementary. Because of COVID restrictions, Dr. Stevenson said the programs would have to be online until in person visits were once again allowed. Discussions are ongoing, with a tentative target date of Earth Day 2022.
5. The Green Team continued its initiatives regarding Solarize Delco, working with Earth Leadership at Radnor High School, working with the Shade Tree Commission and other Radnor Councils, and other projects as listed in the Practical Energy Solutions report.
6. The EAC reintroduced the Plastic Bag Ordinance which had originally been drafted prior to the Pennsylvania State Legislature’s moratorium on plastic bag ordinances. The moratorium was discontinued in 2021, so the initiative has begun again. Discussions of this ordinance are ongoing.
7. Gretchen Groebel from the Radnor Conservancy spoke on “Birdtown PA”, which is affiliated with the Radnor Conservancy and focuses on planting native plants in order to provide food and shelter for birds. We will be collaborating with Birdtown in the future.