

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee  
Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2017**

**Attendees:** Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Ganssle, Diane Halasz, John Marks, Ken Starace, Deanne Werkheiser

**Absent:** Tom Dittmar, Heath Ganssle, Nancy Nicholas (Assoc. Mbr.), Rob Reese, Karen Wollman (Assoc. Mbr.)

**Public Meeting** opened at 7:00 PM at Palmer Public Library

**Approval of January 2017 Minutes.**

Motion to approve: Tom Ganssle. Second: Ken Starace. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Recycling Coordinator's Report**

Cindy Oatis had nothing to report.

**Old Business**

1. ESC By-Laws Status. This is still under review by the Township Manager, Chris Christman.
2. 2017 ESC Direction. The committee reviewed the prioritized list and the methodology used to gather opinions of committee members to prioritize the items in the list. Deanne Werkheiser made a motion that the committee accept the order of priorities as expressed by the committee members with remaining items to be considered as time warrants. Tom Ganssle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.
3. 2017 Year of Planned Action. Cindy Oatis will create this document based on the priorities in the 2017 ESC Direction document; Tom Ganssle will send her a sample from last year. Besides the items in the directions document, it should include time to discuss 2018 initiatives and the budget before the July deadline for the preliminary budget and also to review and update the by-laws. Some items that can be discussed for 2018 initiatives include Adopt-a-Park program similar to the Adopt-a-Highway program (Tom Ganssle has done some research) and surveillance cameras for sites prone to illegal dumping (grants may be available).
4. Voting Definition. The committee agreed that voting as referred to by the committee by-laws only refers to the voting on motions presented at committee meetings. Canvassing the opinions of members through emails, such as requesting members to vote on their priorities for the 2017 ESC Directions document, or in discussions at meetings is equivalent to expressing an opinion.
5. Community Wide Earth Day Sub-committee Report. Deanne Werkheiser made a motion to create a sub-committee for the Community Wide Earth Day event. Ken Starace seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. Ken Starace was named as the chairperson of the sub-committee.
  - a. The meeting point for the event will be the at the large parking lot to the left and east of the library. Diane Halasz will update the event flyer with the location of the event. John Marks made a motion that the flyer with modifications discussed be submitted for approval to Chris Christman. Deanne Werkheiser seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice

vote. Cindy will review the flyer with Chris Christman. Ken will let Cindy know how many copies are needed and where.

- b. Local business may donate food, coffee, snacks, and water for the volunteers for the start of the event. Deanne will send Ken information about Dunkin' Donuts free coffee availability.
  - c. Penn DOT and Palmer Township will supply equipment such as vests and bags.
  - d. Palmer's parks were rated by size and litter problems in order to create a priority list for clean-up. Still need to divide the trails into sub-sections for clean-up.
  - e. Electronic sign was updated to publicize the event. Channel 69 TV news and the Easton Express Times should be notified of the event should they want to cover it as news.
  - f. Contacts are being made with bicycling and running organizations to garner support.
  - g. Presentation to Board of Supervisors will be scheduled for early March. Dave Colver was contacted to arrange a presentation to the Palmer BIP (Business, Industrial, Professional) association.
6. Electronic Recycling. Deanne reported that 10 municipalities are participating in this year's event, which is scheduled for Saturday May 6. The event flyer is still being worked on; each municipality must print copies for its own use. She is working with Upper Nazareth police on traffic flow.

### **Education Sub-Committee Report**

Diane Halasz reported the following:

1. Recapturing old Earth Machine compost bins. Cindy will place an item in the next newsletter requesting that residents notify the township of unused compost bins so they can be collected and re-distributed.
2. Environmental Education Day. A large room is not available in the fall for the event but a small one may be. PESC Committee members were asked to indicate on which Saturdays they are unavailable in September, October, and November to set the date for the event.
3. Green Guide. The Introduction for the guide will be updated to invite residents to submit articles and request future topics for the guide. Requests will be sent to the Recycling Coordinator. The goal is to have all articles for the initial launch ready by mid-April.
4. 2018 Initiatives. We started coming up with ideas for 2018, which include educational displays, signs along trails to connect people to nature, and programs focused on children possibly tied into existing summer programs like Camp Palmer. We will see if there is any litter education in schools.

### **New Business**

1. Shade Tree Commission. Hand-out had been sent showing the township ordinances related to the commission. No action to be taken at this time.
2. Latex Paint Collection Event. Deanne reports that this event will be held in Tatamy on October 7 at Hope Lutheran Church.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: Ken Starace; second: John Marks. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday March 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Palmer Public Library

**Minutes submitted by:** Diane Halasz