

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

**Attendees:** Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Dittmar, Diane Halasz, Nancy Nicholas, Ken Starace, Deanne Werkheiser

**Absent:** Rob Reese

**Public Meeting** opened at 7:03 pm at Palmer Public Library

**1. Election of Officers**

- a. Chairman. Tom Dittmar nominated Deanne Werkheiser. Ken Starace seconded the nomination. Deanne was approved by unanimous voice vote.
- b. Vice-Chairman. Ann-Marie Panella appointed Tom Dittmar as temporary vice-chairman.

**2. Introduction of Guests.** Peggy McFadden and Maureen Miller could not make it to the meeting today. They were interested in joining the committee.

**3. Consent Agenda.** A hand-out describing the purpose of the Consent Agenda and Good of the Order agenda entries was distributed.

**4. Old Business**

- a. Bylaws. This was tabled until the next ESC meeting, scheduled for April.
- b. 2017 Year of Planned Action. Cindy Oatis will work on this. Diane Halasz will send the 2016 version to committee members as an example of what had been done in the past.
- c. Approval of February minutes. Motion to approve was made by Diane Halasz and seconded by Ken Starace. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**5. New Business.** None

**6. Reports**

- a. Recycling. See Appendix 1.
- b. Earth Day Clean up Event. Ken Starace reported:
  1. Flyers and FAQs have been distributed. Diane Halasz will send flyer and FAQ PDFs to Deanne Werkheiser for posting on Facebook pages of local groups.
  2. Donations. Weis Market donated \$20 gift card and Giant donated \$50. Lowe's donated 4 plastic pails. Home Depot and Redner's are checking with corporate headquarters.
  3. Tom Ganssle dropped off all of the trail segmentation and park maps. There are 6 trail segments and 3 parks (Fairview, Penn Pump, and Riverview).
  4. Trash pick-up. In past litter collection events ESC members dropped the trash off at the Hartley Avenue facility. Penn DOT may provide coupons to drop trash off at their facility. Disposition of trash must still be decided.
  5. Event participants will be instructed to leave any electronic waste found but to note the location so it may be picked up at a later date.
  6. Photo releases. Anyone taking photographs during the event should obtain the names and contact information for anyone in the photos.

7. Cindy Oatis wants the list of items needed for the event at least a week ahead of time.
  8. Tom Dittmar obtained clear bags for recyclables.
  9. Provider of coffee is still undetermined. Deanne Werkheiser will inquire about a discount from Sheetz gas station for coffee.
  10. Presentation to the BIP took place today and was positively received. BIP will post the flyer on their website. Ken thanked the BIP for their donation of doggie litter boxes for the recreation trails.
- c. Education. Diane Halasz reported that the Education Sub-committee did not meet as scheduled on 3/20. This has prevented the scheduling of the planned fall education day event. If the event is not scheduled soon enough to be publicized in the August newsletter, it will be cancelled for 2017.
7. **Good of the Order.** A hand-out describing the purpose of the Consent Agenda and Good of the Order agenda entries was distributed.
- a. Ken Zinnis resigned. It is unknown what the effect will be on the upcoming HHW event.
  - b. Palmer changed their servers; Cindy Oatis is once again able to receive email at that email address.
  - c. Northampton County Earth and Health Day is scheduled for 4/20.
  - d. Karen Wollman resigned from the ESC.
  - e. Electronic Recycling Event. Deanne Werkheiser reported that she received a contract from Northampton County for \$2500 towards this event. This will reduce the municipality participation fee to \$100. She also applied for a county grant that would pay for one Upper Nazareth police officer for traffic control at the event and would also allow the municipalities to participate at no cost to them.
  - f. Palmer needs paper shredding. Members stated they bring their home-shredded paper to pet stores and a local farm, that uses it for animal bedding.
8. **Next Meeting:** April 26, 2017
9. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn: Nancy Nicholas; second: Tom Dittmar. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

**Minutes submitted by:** Diane Halasz

## Appendix 1.

### ESC Recycling Report March 22, 2017

1. Recycling Center - At this point, it makes sense for the Township not to utilize the 2014 PA Act 101 902 Recycling Grant for the following reasons:
  - a. The estimates to build the center significantly exceeded time and cost expectations due to the required NPDES permitting, land preparation, and construction costs.
  - b. It had been our intent to pay for this center with three (3) PA Act 101 902 Grants on the every other year schedule. Even with the \$750,000 maximum allowed under the grants, the cost would have been significant. With the removal of the 2016 902 grant, the push back of future applications, and the eligibility changes, the project has been deemed cost prohibitive.
  - c. Recent upgrades to the Department of Public Works facilities have enabled us to eliminate the cross-traffic of municipal vehicles and staff taking place in the area around the center. The Township feels we have eliminated the safety issues that had been of concern previously.
  
2. Recycling Ordinance Revision – Work will begin again on this revision in April.
  
3. Recycling Website Page – Work will begin on this project in April.