

# PALMER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 28, 2017, 7:00 PM

## MINUTES

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**ATTENDEES:** Ann-Marie Panella, Cindy Oatis, Deanne Werkheiser, Tom Dittmar, Nancy Nicholas, Rob Reese, Ken Starace

**Public Meeting** opened at 7:01pm at Palmer Public Library

1. **CONSENT CALENDAR** – Motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Starace, and seconded by Reese, and then approved by unanimous voice vote.
  - A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2017
2. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Earth Day Clean-up Event Survey Results – Committee discussed the 5 received completed surveys noting the following: all were favorable responses; all expressed interest in attending future events; one resident indicated an interest in serving on the ESC; and all indicated no interest in further environmental education. Responding to one resident's questions, Oatis indicated the press was, in fact, contacted regarding this event and that the litter ordinance is currently under review. Starace will contact Penn DOT regarding the overlap of areas where litter is collected to insure accuracy during the next year's event. All members expressed an interest in holding this event next year. The email contact list from this event will be used create a master email list not only for next year's event but for all future events that may be of interest.
  - B. Newsletter Request for Compost Bin Returns – This request resulted in no calls or return of bins.
  - C. 2017 Year of Planned Action – Discussion was held regarding the committees' education initiatives to be worked on during the months of July, August, Sept, and October.
    - i. Oatis will discuss social media education options including a Facebook recycling page with the township manager.
    - ii. Reese will research usable information for the creation of educational materials on storm water ground preparation, no mow zones, etc. He will contact Tom Adams regarding the Township's practices regarding storm water and how they are currently being implemented in the Township.
    - iii. Supervisor Panella indicated that she felt the ESC's role should include assist and guiding both the Township and the residents in creating sound and the municipality in sound environmental best practices.
    - iv. Oatis will contact the Shade Tree Commission for suitable data and information to be used in an article on best practices regarding choosing trees and their care for use by residents in the management of their residential properties.
    - v. Nicholas agreed to work with Oatis on EASD recycling program.
    - vi. Committee will provide suggestions for 2018 planned action at the next meeting.

- vii. Due to lack of public of interest in comprehensive environmental education, and the limited time and ability to host an educational event this fall, a motion to cancel this program was made by Starace, seconded by Nicholas, and then approved by unanimous voice vote.
- viii. Green Guide –
  - 1. Oatis met with Brenda DeGerolamo regarding the update of the website recycling pages and the Green Guide. DeGerolamo indicated that she would prefer receiving all the changes along with the new pages at one time, rather than piecemeal.
  - 2. Diane Halasz reported that she had done a preliminary search on the names referenced at the last meeting; had not received photos or feedback on the articles; and that Tom Ganssle had favorably reviewed the present articles for scientific accuracy.
  - 3. Committee discussion on the articles reflected concern that the articles be brief, accurate, and relevant to our residents and the Township. Additional articles will include the Spotted Lanternfly in the Lehigh Valley and its need to be quarantined, storm water and runoff pollution, managing trees in our yards, radon in our homes, and water saving ideas to name a few. Oatis has arranged for all articles to be reviewed by Kyle Genova, Masters Candidate, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University.
  - 4. Suggestions for locations for distribution of the Green Guide and additional educational materials included the Library, Community Center, and the Palmer Pool.
- ix. Recycling and Environmental Pages of the Website
  - 1. Oatis distributed a draft outline of the website update which will include recycling information and a separate group of pages for the ESC. Members will review and submit additional articles, text, and comments to Oatis well before the July meeting so that they can be assimilated into the revision. The outline will be expanded to include text, pictures, and articles will be reviewed and discussed at the July meeting.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Nomination and Election of Secretary – Oatis will serve as interim secretary until such time as the committee can establish a member in this position.
- B. Restore/Habitat for Humanity – Oatis outlined the new Stuff the Truck Events and the established Paint Recycling Events for implementation in 2018. After brief discussion regarding the benefits for our residents, supporting a recognized non-profit, and no cost to the Township, the motion was made by Reese, and seconded by Werkheiser for Cindy to request permission to arrange these events for Palmer and the committee will work to publicize them.

### **4. REPORTS – None**

### **5. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- A. Dittmar and Oatis collected all ESC historic documents and various supplies and transported same to the mezzanine storage area at the Public Works Building. Oatis will be reviewing all documents and then arranging for their scanning and proper archiving.
- B. Township is looking for recycling and yard waste center attendants.

C. Apple announced that moving forward all iPhones and computers will be manufactured entirely from recycled materials!

**6. NEXT MEETING:** July 26, 2017

**7. ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn at 9:20pm was made by Nicholas, and seconded by Dittmar, and then approved by unanimous voice vote.