

PALMER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
July 26, 2017 MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Ann-Marie Panella, Deanne Werkheiser, Tom Dittmar, Nancy Nicholas, and Ken Starace. Cindy Oatis is attending the PROP convention and will report on that at the August meeting.

Public Meeting Deanne Werkheiser called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at Palmer Public Library

1. Deanne introduced Lori Wnek, resident who attended the Earth Day Cleanup and is interested in joining the PESC.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve the June 28, 2017 minutes was made by Tom Dittmar, seconded by Ken Starace. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **NEW/ OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. 2018 initiatives/ planned events- The PESC was tasked with bringing their ideas for 2018. Ken asked about the status of the Green Guide. Deanne stated that Cindy is working on articles that were submitted, articles that would work with this committee and the shade tree committee, and submissions still coming from this committee. Cindy is shooting for September publication. Members should submit articles for review. The committee wants to see the Green Guide continue with educational material important to the residents and supervisors. Deanne stated she attended the Rec Board meeting to offer the PESC's help with their initiatives. She also spoke with Dan Kinney regarding having PESC information at the Chrin Center and Palmer Pool once approved by the Township manager and supervisors. A discussion ensued where ideas and suggestions were raised for 2018 events. The PESC decided on the following for 2018-
 - i. Green Guide
 - ii. Earth Day Cleanup
 - iii. Educational programs with EASD
 - iv. Electronic Recycling Event
 - v. Latex Paint Event
 - vi. Stuff The Truck Event
 - vii. Help at the NC Household Hazardous Waste Events
 - viii. Work with Lafayette College, Bushkill Conservancy, the Shade Tree Commission, and Rec. Board, etc. to promote education valuable to all groups and work on joint projects.
 - B. **2018 Budget Requests**- Cindy will be working on the 2018 budget request for PESC. A discussion ensued involving placing signage along the trails and at parks regarding the environment, history, local plants, no mow zones, etc. to further educate. Ken suggested this could be done with Lafayette College. Crossing illumination along trail crossing was suggested that Palmer supervisors should look into. Could be solar powered. Ann Marie would like citations to go to long time members that were on the PESC. An Appreciation Program for those seen practicing good behavior on trails, at parks, at Palmer

days. Etc. Such as a thank you note that could be handed to the person when seen picking up trash. A thank you can go a long way.

4. Reports-

- A. EASD- Nancy gave an update on meeting held at Shawnee that she and Cindy attended. They want to promote recycling. Easton is using Chrin currently. Cindy gave them information on what to recycle and on working to make it easier on the janitors and children involved through "The Leader In Me" program. Cindy is working on getting educational videos. It was suggested that the local colleges may have videos to be used as well.
- B. Recycling Report- the PESC reviewed the submitted report from Oatis
 - 1. Recycling Facebook Page – Has been requested and awaiting decision
 - 2. Easton Area School District (EASD) - Ongoing meetings continue with EASD superintendent, principals, PTA and Tim Case. Evaluating improved signage, container requirements, contests, and education, etc. for Fall 2018 implementation.
 - 3. Shade Tree Commission – Jamie Collins and Oatis will be working together on articles pertaining to items such as best practices for yard trees and neighborhood street trees. She is currently beginning to work on a tree ordinance for Palmer as well.
 - 4. The 2014 902 Recycling Center Grant has been formally declined due to the high cost and the current hold on this grant program.
 - 5. Recycling Ordinance – Remains in progress; expected to be before the ESC for comment at August meeting.
- C. Earth Day Clean-up Event – Ken stated he had nothing further to add beside better coordination with other groups that would be out doing the same thing- veterans, churches- needs to be coordinated so that everyone isn't at the same spots.. Lori Wnek stated that is how she would like to be involved and would be willing to help Ken with this event.
- D. Storm Water- Rob Reese was not in attendance but he did email stating that he would be meeting with Tom Adams and suggested having the PESC go to the EAHS to see what is being discussed. The PESC would like to go there at the beginning of the August meeting.

5. **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- A. Deanne showed everyone the Palmer August newsletter, Natural Lands magazine, Act 101 information, and plastic bag ordinance information. Township is looking for recycling and yard waste center attendants.
- B. Ken has contacts that would be willing to come speak to the PESC on various environmental topics. Jeff Libe has offered. The PESC is for having him come.
- C. Ken stated there are about 20 tires dumped along the Lehigh trail. There are a group who are willing to pull them out in the fall once the vegetation dies down but will need the township to pick them up for proper disposal.

6. **NEXT MEETING:** August 23, 2017

7. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm was made by Tom Dittmar, seconded by Nancy Nicholas. Motion approved unanimously.