

PALMER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 23, 2017, 7:00 PM

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

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

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion was made by Nicholas, seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all to remove the Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2017 from the consent agenda. Minor grammatical changes were made. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Starace, seconded by Reese, and approved by all.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Email List - Starace will create and maintain the names and emails of those interested in volunteering and/or have expressed interest in receiving information from the committee.
- B. 2018 Budget Requests
 - i. EASD – To be determined.
 - ii. Earth Day – Supplies \$400; Committee currently has gift cards that are being rolled over for Earth Day 2018 in the amount of \$70 (\$50 Giant; \$20 Weis) that will be used for water, coffee, etc.
 - iii. Storm water – Discussion regarding stencils, etc. Reese to have discussion with Tom Adams regarding options and needs. To be determined.
 - iv. Green Guide – To be determined.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Starace requested information regarding to whom residents should report various types of township concerns. Oatis indicated as a general rule, emailing the township employee in charge of the specific area of concern is best. If unknown refer to Oatis or speak to the township receptionist for direction to the correct person.
- B. 2018 Meeting Calendar – Meeting dates for 2018 will remain the 4th Wednesday of each month with no meeting in November and December.

4. REPORTS

- A. Recycling Report – Oatis
 - i. PROP Conference/DEP – Oatis reported on the status of Act 101 renewal, CDRA Act revisions, and the status of glass recycling and its effect on our 904 performance grants.
 - ii. Recycling Facebook Page – C. Christman feels that utilizing the main Palmer Community Page is a more effective means of disseminating our recycling information. Oatis agreed citing the difficulties various townships have

experienced with managing numerous pages. Panella suggested choosing a specific monthly schedule for postings. Werkheiser and Oatis will manage the information being submitted. Nixle messaging is also an option.

- iii. Easton Area School District (EASD) – Palmer continues to support the district's recycling efforts with carts and educational materials. Oatis has been working with Chrin to add recyclables to the district's program (i.e. shredded paper, #6 plastics, and cartons).
- iv. Recycling Ordinance – Remains in progress;
- v. Green Guide – Submitted articles are under review. New articles have been added. Shade Tree Commission will be submitting an article in October. Reese is working on a storm water article and/or reference material.
- vi. Website Outline – Outline has been reviewed and approved by the committee and Oatis has begun building the pages.

B. Storm Water Report – Reese

- i. Reese has begun discussions regarding municipal storm water practices with T. Adams and the committee discussed the following:
 1. Ordinance Chapter 158 governs storm water and Reese will be reviewing same
 2. Township only has jurisdiction over a few swales and retention ponds; can make recommendations to private homeowners and HOAs but currently cannot mandate practices.
 3. Educational focus will be on residential properties and their role in protection
 - a. will consider adopt-a- drain program
 - b. discourage mowing and blowing of grass into streets
 - c. best management practices on residential properties
 - d. assistance available from NH County Conservation District
 4. Will evaluate whether our education program can give Palmer credit for mandatory MS-4 education.

C. BOS Liaison Report – Panella provided information and responded to questions regarding the Warner Trucking application and the surrounding public concern. She indicated that the September 5th Palmer Board of Supervisors meeting will be addressing these issues.

5. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A. Werkheiser will be attending the Northampton County Citizens Academy.
- B. Panella asked that we keep members of Lehigh Valley Adult Services in mind for volunteers for future projects and events.

6. NEXT MEETING:

September 27, 2017 - Committee will meet at the Kunkle Tract to view storm water practices at 6pm and then move to the Palmer Library for 7pm, at the Palmer Library.

7. ADJOURNMENT

– Motion to adjourn made by Starace, seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all.

Submitted by Cindy Oatis