

Palmer Township ESC – Meeting Minutes

Environmental Steering Committee

January 25, 2012

Attendees: Tom Ganssle, Rob Reese, Chris Briglia, Cindy Oatis, Tom Dittmar, John Balas, Rob Natkie, Nancy Nicholas, Terry Cooper, John Olock, Denise Veres

Meeting opened: 7:02 PM

Guests: Chris Caras (Mascaro), Charlie Altemose (Palmer Twp. Recycling Center)

Environmental Steering Committee (ESC) 2012 ESC Reorganization: (1) Ann Marie Panella presided over the reorganization in Bob Lammi's absence. (2) Tom D. and Rob N. nominate Rob Reese and Tom Ganssle as Co-chairmen of the ESC. The ESC voted yes unanimously. (3) Rob R. and Tom G. nominate Chris Briglia as Secretary. The ESC voted yes unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2011 minutes approved.

Hauler Report: (1) Chris Caras mentioned that holiday tree pick-up took one week more than originally scheduled and that it should be complete now. (2) Tom G. expressed overall disappointment regarding the lack of proper signage on the yard waste and tree pick-up trucks. (3) Cindy O. updated Chris C. on the history of difficulties with truck signage and how it irritates customers. J. P. Mascaro was in violation of the truck signage for the Spring 2011 yard waste collection and January 2012 Christmas tree collection. Chris C. said he would notify the appropriate people about this condition and that it would be resolved. (4) Cindy O. inquired if J. P. Mascaro would consider donating money to put towards the Palmer Township Anti-Litter campaign. Chris C. assured the ESC that he would make a request for same. Chris also mentioned that he works in the Allentown office and covers Palmer Township. (4) The ESC made a motion to make a recommendation to the Township Manager that J. P. Mascaro be fined for repeated violations. Tom G. will draft a letter to Chris Christman noting the offences and requesting a review of the present hauling contract. Tom G. will also mention the imposition of a fine for the next offence, in the letter.

Recycling Coordinator Report: (1) Cindy O. said the DEP has hired a new recycling director and is getting caught up with grant processing. It is believed that the DEP will be opening long awaited 902 grant once again this Spring possibly within 30 days. (2) Cindy O. said that the contract for landfill service is progressing and that the cost for same appears to be lower this year. Tom D. mentioned that in accordance with the Northampton County 10 year solid waste plan contract, landfills have a maximum limit they can charge a Township for the service. (3) Cindy O. said that February, March, April and May 2012 will be the meeting months dedicated to public education and presentation of new hauling contract options. (4) Charlie A. requested a typed list of businesses that use the recycling facility. There were also discussions of discarding old bicycles. Old bikes not suitable for collection by CAT will now be placed in the "metals" recycling bin. (5) Cindy O. recommends assigning certain ESC year initiatives to the calendar on certain months and assign a time table for each item to more effectively accomplish the initiatives. (6) The Committee discussed various options for improving safety on and around the yard waste container stairs. A motion was made to recommend fabricated steel stairs on wheels, with a brake to Tom Adams for the purpose of increasing safety in that area.

Old Business: (1) Cindy O. reminded the ESC that waste/recycling contract education will begin next month and continue for 4 consecutive months, during the first hour of our normally held ESC meetings.

New Business: (1) Rob R. mentioned the Chrin Co. farm operation defoliating and backfilling within a stream buffer. Rob R. has pictures and will email them to ESC members upon request. He also mentioned that nitrate levels in the Schoeneck Creek are significantly higher presently compared to the past 10 years and cited several reasons for same. (2) Rob R. mentioned the Adventures In Agriculture program. (3) Rob R. mentioned the Great PA Cleanup which is usually held a week either side of Earth Day, April 22, 2012. (4) Rob R. announced a March 3rd, 2012 seminar for litter and stormwater control which will be provided at the PA Environmental Council's PEC meeting at Montgomery County Community College. Trails will be present at the seminar. (5) Tom D. mentioned the Treevitalization program and that Tom Adams will apply for the grant money in March in attempt to be able to plant in the Fall of 2012.

Announcements: (1) Tom D. mentioned the 2012 Recycling event is scheduled for May 19th. There will be no fee for electronics drop-off, only for fluorescent light bulbs and batteries. (2) Tom D. mentioned the Household Hazardous Waste drop-off event is scheduled for October 6th at NACC. (3) Cindy O. will be encouraging the public to attend the next ESC meeting and requested any additional ideas for her presentation, from Committee members.

Adjournment: 8:33pm motion to adjourn meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Township Library conference room.