

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2016**

Attendees: Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Dittmar, Heath Ganssle, Tom Ganssle, John Marks, Nancy Nicholas, John Olock

Guests: None

Public Meeting opened at 7:05 PM at Palmer Public Library

Election of Officers: Tom Ganssle asked Ann Marie Panella to open the meeting for nominations from the floor for the position of Chairman of the Environmental Steering Committee.

Ann Marie Panella: I open the nominations for the position of “**Chairperson**” of the Palmer Township Environmental Steering Committee?

Tom Ganssle: Nominated **John Marks**

No additional nominations were made.

Acting Chairperson John Marks: I open the nominations for the position of “**Vice-Chairperson**” of the Palmer Township Environmental Steering Committee?

Tom Dittmar: Nominated **Tom Ganssle**

No additional nominations were made.

Acting Chairperson John Marks: I open the nominations for the position of “**Secretary**” of the Palmer Township Environmental Steering Committee?

Tom Ganssle: Nominated **Diane Halasz**

No additional nominations were made.

Acting Chairperson John Marks: All in favor? **Result: Unanimous affirmative voice vote.**

Recycling Coordinator’s Report

1. Cindy reported that the 2015 Performance Data is being prepared for publication in the March 2016 Palmer Township’s “Today’s Palmer” Newsletter and the Township’s Web Site.
2. That the future Recycling Center costs were being incorporated within a proposed “bond sale” which is anticipated to open on 2/1/2016, and close on 3/7/2016.
3. Palmer Township is currently eligible to make application for the “American Water Grant” in the sum of \$35,000.00 for water shed protection, innovative natural resources (water) protection/preservation programs.
4. Palmer will seek additional grant funding from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) in 2016. This application is likely to include requests for reimbursement of a leaf vacuum, and construction costs associated with the new recycling center.
5. The purchase of a “paper shredder” would be a beneficial resource for the citizens of Palmer Township to assist in ensuring their privacy and assist in prohibiting identity theft. The purchase of a shredder would be advantageous, especially at this time of the year, in that previous year(s) tax documents would be properly disposed of (shredded) without fear of personal information being available and easily

discovered thru the waste stream. It would also enable Palmer to receive recycling credit for a significant amount of paper that is being taken to Bethlehem for shredding and recycling.

6. Cindy also reported that municipalities will continue to struggle with the lack of electronics recycling options in our area as a result of the PA CDRA Act not working as expected. *Best Buy Stores* are expected to reduce or discontinue their acceptance of certain CRTS (computer screens and televisions).

Tom Ganssle:

ESC Direction 2016

- **Great American Clean-up** - Continue with our ESC annual Saturday AM collection event, but have random collections on roadsides & bike paths throughout cold months. *Coordinate with Thomas Adams, Director of Public Works and Services.*

- **In April around Earth Day** - plan, advertise and orchestrate a resident annual event where as many as possible Palmer residents participate in a one-day collection of their choice close to their own properties. Could develop into something like Saucon's Adopt a Road Program. Establish a Palmer website where residents may post their contributions and/or pics. of event. *Discuss at the February 2016, ESC MTG. Draft an "Adopt a Road Program Outline" for the March 2016 ESC Meeting.*

- **Become more involved** in Palmer Planning Commission and zoning hearing board meetings having input when it comes to issues of water runoff and impervious surfaces as well as impact on welfare and well-being of the community. *An extensive discussion was held, with this matter being "tabled" till 2017.*

- **Make Presentations before Businesses in Palmer Association** requesting business owners to keep the area around their business clear of debris generated on their property such as grocery stores and strip malls.

- **Send correspondence** to BIP, Palmer Park users, churches, etc. asking them to voluntarily clean areas around their facilities & advertise their community involvement & encourage increasing their recycling efforts. *"Draft correspondence for Palmer's Board of Supervisors approval."*

- **Request Scout Troops** become involved in merit badge programs within the community such as cleaning along the bike trails removing debris. In this way they would not be out on the roadways doing cleanups but along protected bike paths. *Contact the Scouting Council seeking Point of Contact for Palmer Scout Troops. (J. Marks)*

- **Expanding the Township Website** to contain additional environmental topics of interest such as seasonal car care and house insulation suggestions.

- **Expansion of the Township Newsletter** to incorporate similar items as the website in that not everybody in the community goes to the website nor has access to computers. Contribute to Article writing. *Provide articles to Cindy Oatis for inclusion within Today's Palmer Newsletter – space is limited – keep article(s) succinct.*

Next Newsletter "submission closure date is 1 March 2016.

- **Correspond with & work closer with other organizations/committees like Bushkill Stream Conservancy**
- **Follow & push for continued action on Open Space in Palmer.** *Very little Open Space remains.*
- **Continue to research ways to improve Palmer's recycling #s.** *Tom Dittmar – food waste article*
- **Latex Paint Collection** - *Participate in both Northampton County's Latex Paint Collection Program <http://www.northamptoncounty.org/northampton/lib/northampton/depts/economicdevelopment/websitefaq.pdf> and "ReStore" <http://www.habitatlvrestore.org/> The next ReStore Latex collection date February 6, 2016. Upper Nazareth Township to hold Latex Paint Collection events on August 6 and September 3, 2016*
- **Biannual HHW Collection** - Participate in Northampton County - Ken Zinis' events. *Two dates for 2016 have been published: May 21 and October 8 at NACC from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM.*
- **Electronic Recycling Event-** April 16, 2016 - Tatamy, Palmer, Nazareth, Lower Nazareth, Bushkill and other adjacent communities are planning to offer a multi-community E-Recycling Event to be held on 16 April at the parking lot of the Nazareth Area Intermediary School, 355 Tatamy Road, Nazareth, PA. Distribution of a flyer will be made when it becomes available.
- **Help, encourage EASD to establish, maintain a functional recycling program** *Cindy Oatis is working with the EASD M.S. Riley Recycling has closed its business. Chrin Hauling, Inc. is currently removing recyclables from both Palmer Elementary and Tracey Elementary Schools.*
- **Be involved in Hartley Avenue Recycling Center Construction** *Plans are currently being discussed.*
- **Bike/walk path improvements** *Rob Reese to discuss during the February 2016 ESC meeting*
- **Bicycling education** - possible AM kids event at Community Weekend in August *Rob Reese – to discuss during the February 2016 ESC meeting*
- **Composting Event** - Possible make-your-own *Tom Dittmar to establish date(s), time(s), location(s) for the training of Palmer residents who desire to participate in learning how to make their own compost container.*
- **Storm Water Solutions** *Due to the complexity of the issue and Regulations governing this subject the Township Engineer is the sole source. If members of the ESC observe a "storm water issue" please contact Chris Christman, Township Manager.*

ESC Year of Planned Action – 2016

FEBRUARY 24, ESC MEETING – Finalize discussion of projects/issues/goals for the year.

- Determine sub-committee chair/volunteers for each area. Northampton County has “Sustainability Funds” to assist with “Electronic Recycling Events.”

- March 5 - Latex Paint Collection - Williams Township - 9AM - 12 PM

MARCH 23, ESC MEETING - Great American Clean up – plan site, time for yearly event & other possible Saturday AM along Palmer’s hike/bike trails.

APRIL 16, Multi-Community E-Recycling Event – Nazareth Area Intermediate School 355 Tatamy Road, Nazareth, PA

APRIL 27, ESC MEETING – Discuss – schedule Great American Clean-Up

MAY 25, ESC MEETING - Work on committee Mission Statement & Bi-laws

- May 21 - HHW Event at NACC Parking Lot

JUNE 22, ESC MEETING - Work on committee Mission Statement & Bi-laws
ESC budget requests must be submitted by this meeting.

JULY 27, ESC MEETING – Review and vote on ESC Mission Statement & Bi-laws
Propose sending same to Palmer BofS via Mr. Christman for approval.

- Aug. 6 - Latex Paint Collection - Upper Nazareth Township - 9AM - 12 PM

AUGUST 24, ESC MEETING

- Sept. 3 - Latex Paint Collection - Jacksonville Rd, Bethlehem - 9AM - 12 PM

SEPTEMBER 28, ESC MEETING – Yard Waste Education (Composting)

- Oct. 8 - HHW – Participation at NACC Parking Lot

OCTOBER 26, ESC MEETING - Discuss and vote on next year’s meeting dates

NOVEMBER 23, ESC MEETING - Plan Christmas Meeting

- End-of-year Report - send to Board of Supervisors

December - Christmas Dinner

- Tom G.: Motion to adjourn, Tom D.: Second 8:35 PM

Next Meeting: February. 24, 7:00 PM – Palmer Library

Minutes submitted by: Tom Ganssle