

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2016**

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

Guests: Deanne Werkheiser, Tatamy Borough Secretary

Public Meeting opened at 7:04 pm at Palmer Public Library

Approval of January Minutes.

Motion to approve: Tom Ganssle. Second: Rob Reese. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Recycling Coordinator's Report

There was no official report from the recycling coordinator but some topics were mentioned for the committee's information and discussions ensued.

1. Electronic Recycling. State Representative Chris Ross has distributed an amended CDRA Act 108 for review. If committee members would like a copy, let Cindy know.
2. E-waste. It is estimated that 470 million flat screen televisions (possibly 10 billion pounds) will enter the waste stream in the next 10 years. They all contain mercury and must be dismantled by hand. It is a nationwide problem but some states, like Washington and Oregon, handle e-waste better.
3. Cost of recycling. Palmer Township is fortunate that a "floor" was written into their recycling contract that prevents costs from increasing beyond a certain amount due to lower returns on recycled materials.
4. Closed Loop Fund. This is non-profit created by a number of large corporations to promote recycling through minimum cost loans. A huge, automated recycling plant northwest of Baltimore is being funded by it. This plant is expected to provide faster, better, and cheaper recycling to entities within 300 miles.

Guest Speaker Deanne Werkheiser spoke about efforts of Tatamy in electronic recycling event from both an historical and current perspective. An April 16 event is planned this year. Some key points:

1. Effort began after 2012 and was free in the beginning. Due to increasing costs, they then partnered with 11 other municipalities to split the cost. Palmer Township was one of these.
2. After the recent Best Buy announcement that they would no longer accept televisions and monitors for recycling, she requested help from Northampton County Environment Services Coordinator, Ken Zinis. He proposed to reimburse the municipalities 50% of the cost up to \$1000.
3. RRS (Resource Recycling Systems) was the recycler in the past. Since the number of trucks must be ordered in advance, the fear was that people would dump their electronics along the roadside if the event ended early due to full capacity. They are switching to AERC Recycling Solutions as the provider. AERC has a higher cost but they will stay until the planned ending time of the event and handle most of the nitty-gritty details of running it.
4. She and Northampton County Executive John Brown spoke about this issue at the open house on 2/23/2016. He stated that if each municipality in the coalition chips in \$100 for the 4/16/2016 event, the

county will pay the rest of the tab. Ann Marie Panella, representing the Palmer Board of Supervisors, said that the \$100 was doable.

5. A discussion of publicity for the event took place. Options mentioned were email, Facebook, Tatamy quarterly newsletter, website, The Express Times and The Nazareth Key newspapers, the COG (Council of Governments), and Channel 69 News.
6. Event will take place from 9:00 am until 2:00 or 2:30 pm on Saturday 4/16. John Marks and Tom Dittmar volunteered to assist at the event.

Old Business

1. Paper Shredder. Rob Reese suggested that the Palmer BIP (Business, Industrial, and Professional) Association be approached to assist in funding the shredder.
2. CDRA Act 108 Letter to State Representative Chris Ross. The letter was discussed and changes were made. Motion to approve the letter: Tom Ganssle; second: Rob Reese. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. Diane will send a revised copy to the ESC by Wednesday 2/25/2016. Cindy will send a copy to Palmer Township Manager Chris Christman. Afterwards, John Marks will send the letter to Chris Ross with copies to other legislators.
3. Mottos and Slogans for Lions Club sign on 25th Street. "Think globally. Act Locally" was added. All phrases will be included in the final list. The phrases should be rotated monthly; no particular order is specified. John Marks will update the list and send it to Cindy who will send it to the appropriate person.

New Business

1. Deanna Werkheiser, a Palmer Township resident, was asked to join the Palmer ESC. She agreed. John Marks will send an e-mail to Ann Marie Panella recommending her appointment.
2. Litter Collection by the ESC is tentatively scheduled for Saturday 3/5, weather permitting. Location and time to be determined. John Marks will send out information as the date approaches.
3. Hike/bike trail. We discussed possibility of creating a scouting merit badge for trash clean-up along the trail. Bushkill Stream Conservancy has future plans for signs at trailheads.
4. Bike Day is scheduled in Fairview Park for Saturday 4/23 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm by Palmer Elementary School. Lots of groups will attend. Rob Reese will follow up to determine if there is some way for the ESC to participate since we will not be participating in Palmer Community Days this year.
5. Great American Clean-up on Saturday 4/23. On Wednesday 2/25, Tom Ganssle will send to Cindy the text promoting this event for the Palmer Township Newsletter.
6. Year of Planned Action - 2016. Tom Ganssle will update this list to reflect current plans for the Great American Clean-up.
7. John Olock resigned from the committee because he is moving out-of-state in the near future; this was his last meeting. The ESC thanked him for his service and wished him well in the future.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Tom Ganssle; second: Heath Ganssle. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday March 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Palmer Public Library

Minutes submitted by: Diane Halasz