

Palmer Township ESC – Meeting Minutes

Environmental Steering Committee

February 22, 2012

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

**Meeting opened:** 6:59 PM

**Guests:** Chris Caras (Mascaro), Matt Daniels (Greenstar), Richard Smith (Greenstar)

**Meeting Attendees:** David Baxter (Twp. Resident), Dennis Potter (Twp. Resident), Ameda L. Eck (Twp. Resident)

Tom G. made an announcement that due to the nature and importance of this meeting and the fact that public input is expected, it would be recorded to ensure accuracy of the minutes. Upon approval of the meeting minutes the recording would be destroyed.

ESC members introduced themselves. Guests and public attendees introduced themselves.

Tom G. explained that the Township is renewing the waste hauling contract. The ESC has been doing research over the past few years to determine the most viable options for this renewal that will streamline the hauling process and save Township residents money. Tom introduced the presentation and offered brochure materials for the public's use.

Cindy O. made a presentation first informing the public that the present hauling contract will expire in April, 2013. She briefed the public on the current Township hauling options. She then explained that increasing recycling and decreasing the amount of trash can only help the Township residents environmentally and economically. She proceeded through her presentation and asked the public for questions and/or comments.

Public Question and Comment Session

1. Lower Macungie and South Whitehall Townships presently have an automated collection system using totes.
2. Ameda E. questioned the size of the proposed toter considering that a single person household would only produce a small amount of refuse. She also asked if there was going to be a choice of toter size.
3. Tom G. asked Ameda E. if she would object to the 96 gal. toter and she replied that she would.
4. Ameda E. questioned yard waste collection standards. Tom D. recited the State yard waste dumping regulations.
5. Rich S. introduced himself and represents Greenstar. He said that the Greenstar facility has a mercury removal system capable 18,000 ton/month. The company utilizes both hand and mechanical sorting. The company determines the monetary value of the recycling material then subtracts that amount from their service fee. The company is a single stream processor. Tom D. added to Rich S.' information.
6. Dave B. questioned where collected recycling material goes now and the reply was Mascaro collects the recycling. Dave said that he uses the recycling facility on Hartley Avenue regularly and was surprised at the lack of public knowledge of the facility with respect to how recycling more, can save money.
7. Ameda E. asked the ESC what they are doing regarding advertising and education.
8. Tom G. mentioned the conveniences of the Hartley Avenue facility.
9. Tom D. also mentions the conveniences of the Hartley Avenue facility with respect to scrap metal drop off.
10. Rob R. mentioned a problem with scrap metal is during the residential street pick-up times commercial scrap dealers poach it and that takes away from the Township's tonnage, which takes away our chances of obtaining grant money.
11. David B. asked if the Hartley Avenue recycling facility would consider later hours of operation. Cindy O. said it is a possibility. David B. complimented J.P. Mascaro on its service.
12. Chris C. mentioned South Whitehall Township's collection system and its advantages.
13. Ann Marie P. questioned the size of the 96 gal. toter being managed by an elderly person. Chris C. said that the size would not pose a problem due to the unit mobility.
14. Rob N. measured the height of the container as 45 inches.
15. Ameda E. suggested educating the public more. Tom D. replied that the Committee was educating the public for 21 years.
16. David B. asked why we pay so much?
17. Ameda E. asked whether or not the collection bills will go up. Cindy O. stated that the Township Board Of Supervisors (BOS) will do their best not to increase the collection rates during the present economic situation.
18. Ameda E. asked where to get a new recycling can. Cindy O. suggested she go to the Township building.
19. Terry C. questioned the size of the toter containers for trash and recycling. Cindy O. said that would be decided considering public comment.
20. David B. questioned collection of large items such as sofas, furniture, etc. and whether or not it would cost more money under the new contract. Cindy O. mentioned a potential program where there is a particular time to discard these items at a certain fee. David B. also mentioned educating more about recycling in the schools.
21. Tom G. mentioned that the next three (3) meetings will host public inquiry for one (1) hour.

Continue Regular Meeting 7:55pm:

**Approval Of Minutes:** Jan. 25, 2012 minutes approved with revisions.

**Hauler Report:** (1) Chris Caras presented the truck sign for yard waste pick-up. (2) He also mentioned that empty pizza boxes will not be taken as recyclable material due to food contamination. (3) Tom G. mentioned that no food contaminated materials should be recycled. (4) Rob R. inquired as to how many signs J.P. Mascaro had for the trucks. Chris C. said there are four (4) signs for two (2) trucks.

**Recycling Coordinator Report:** (1) Cindy O. mentioned that she assumes Tom Adams is researching the repair costs associated with the recycling center dumpster steps. (2) Cindy O. mentioned that Chris Cristman feels that J.P. Mascaro is taking the proper steps toward rectifying pick-up issues and that they should be closely watched. (3) Cindy O. said that refuse and recycling hauling contacts will be bid first in order to level the field for more haulers to bid. (4) Haulers inflating tonnage amounts can affect the bidding process. (5) Tom G. inquired about possibly having two (2) separate contractors for both refuse and recycling hauling. Cindy O. mentioned that she felt that would not be beneficial but it is common practice in municipalities. She also mentioned fuel usage clause. (6) Denise V. asked if it was possible for residents to purchase stickers for \$1.00 to stick on bags of extra or over-the-limit trash, grass clippings, etc. (7) Tom D. reiterated the grass clipping collection issues and that land fills are still allowed to accept clippings and yard waste within a certain percentage of the total haul. (8) Rob R. inquired about the possibility of purchasing an extra toter container for overflow customers and perhaps at an extra hauling service fee.

**Old Business:** (1) Rob R. mentioned that the Chrin Co. will resolve the Schoeneck Creek issues and reestablish vegetation, trees and ground cover along the stream bank that were destroyed. All applicable agencies will be satisfied by these actions and all will be at the Chrin Company's expense. (2) Tom G. inquired as to how new jobs will be increased, with reference to Cindy O.'s presentation. Cindy O. said she would concentrate on that aspect for her revised presentation but that increased recycling will increase jobs due to an expanded industry. (3) Rob R. mentioned that the presentation would be better represented with a graph of the Township's waste management data rather than a table.

**New Business:** (1) Rob R. mentioned that the week before or after Earth Day will be scheduled for the great PA clean-up. (2) Rob R. mentioned stream clean-up along the Bushkill up and downstream from Penn Pump or from Edgewood to 13<sup>th</sup> street bridge. (3) The course of action was discussed for the next ESC meeting. (4) Rob R. announced that a stormwater control CD is available to check out if anyone is interested. (5) Cindy O. suggested that the ESC start to schedule the year initiatives at the next meeting and this should be an item on the agenda. (6) The anti litter campaign will be mentioned on the Township Web Site for January and February 2013 start-up and will need volunteers.

**Announcements:** (1) Tom D. mentioned the 2012 Ecycling event is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>. He anticipates the event will be very busy and they are expecting to collect 100,000 pounds of material this year. (2) Rob R. mentioned a tour of the Greenstar operation and Tom D. said he would contact Richard S. of Greenstar to coordinate this.

**Adjournment:** 8:35pm motion to adjourn meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Township Library conference room.

Minutes submitted by Chris Briglia March 22, 2012.