

Palmer Township ESC – Meeting Minutes

Environmental Steering Committee

February 26, 2014

Attendees: Terry Cooper, Tom Dittmar, Tom Ganssle, Nancy Nicholas, Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), John Olock, Rob Reese, and Bob Smith (BOS Liaison).

Guests: John Marks, former ESC member and Bob Smith, new Board of Supervisor Liaison.

Meeting opened: approximately 7:10 PM

Election of Officers: Chair, Tom Ganssle nominated by Tom Dittmar, seconded by Rob Reese. Approved unanimously. Vice-Chair, Chris Briglia nominated by Rob Reese, seconded by Terry Cooper. Approved unanimously. Secretary, Terry Cooper nominated by Tom Dittmar, seconded by John Olock. Approved unanimously.

Approval Of Minutes: October 23, 2013 minutes tabled due to sub-committee question. November 20, 2013 minutes approved unanimously, Rob Reese motioned to approve, seconded by Tom Dittmar.

Recycling Coordinator Report: (1) Trash and recyclables for three private driveways not collected for three weeks due to snowstorms. Waste Management coordinated for a pick up. (2) Survey taken to determine interest in smaller toters at Victoria Square and Mill's Race. Of the 144 surveys given out only 48 returned. Of those 48, only three said smaller toters would help problem. Can apply for a grant to cover cost of 64-gallon toters. Thirty-eight infirmed residents already have special collection. As of November 1, second containers were allowed to be purchased. Less than five trash toters were purchased, while approximately 15-20 additional recycling toters were handed out. (3) DEP is moving to a focus on litter and the Great American Clean-Up meets DEP requirements. Need to get more residents involved. (4) EAC conference in May for those who want to go.

Year's Plan of Action: (1) Education of public to increase recycling rates. Reduction in waste and increased recycling yields cash back to the township. Need new recycling numbers emailed to committee. Possible to put the information in Township bills. Potential sub-committee: Tom D., Tom G., and Cindy O. (2) School District needs to be Act 101 compliant. (3) Community weekend. (4) Household Hazardous Waste collection May 31 and October 11 at NCC, 8:30AM-2:30PM. County may be adding tire disposal for a small fee. (5) Great American Clean-Up timeframe extended March 1-May 31, 2014. Need litter fine amount signs. Will help with grant money. Sub-committee: Tom G., Tom D., John M.

Discussion: (1) Potential 50/50 raffle items in our booth at Community Weekend are a composter (cost \$45) and/or rain barrel. (2) Ideas-get recycling containers at township parks, have permit for clothing recycling bins, and paper flies around when front smaller garbage bins dump into the large bins in the back of the trucks. (3) Rob R. mentioned Northampton County's Water Shed Steward program with a watershed specialist. Bushkill Stream Conservancy needs a representative from Palmer Township regarding storm water run-off. Other municipalities in the area have representatives. (4) John O. talked about the huge recycling center in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Adjourn: 8:45PM John O. motions to adjourn meeting; seconded by Tom D. Approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Township Library conference room.

Minutes submitted by Terry Cooper March 26, 2014. Approved March 26, 2014.