

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2016**

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

Absent: Tom Ganssle, Rob Reese

Guests: Karen Wollman, volunteer who helped with Palmer Bike Path clean-up on 3/19

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

Approval of February Minutes.

Motion to approve: Tom Dittmar. Second: Diane Halasz. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Recycling Coordinator's Report

Cindy Oatis reported the following:

1. Act 108 Letter Status. Letter was sent to Rep. Chris Ross. Board of Supervisors (BoS) was pleased with the letter.
2. Recycling Slogans for Electric Sign on 25th Street. Each slogan will appear for seven days and will then be replaced by the next slogan on the list.
3. Park Recycling Containers. The new containers were installed in Fairview Park. They have a metal framework, a 50-gallon drum and are bolted to the ground. The 21 containers cost \$15,000. Success of the recycling effort will be evaluated in late summer or early fall.
4. Smaller 65-gallon Containers. 112 of these smaller trash and recycling containers were purchased for distribution to infirm residents who may have difficulty handling the larger 96-gallon containers. About 43 residents requested the smaller containers. Of these, 10 to 14 are better suited to the assisted collection. When the smaller containers are distributed, the larger containers will be collected and cleaned for redistribution. Cindy maintains a list of the residents on assisted collection. Cindy and Nancy will discuss if the school could receive some of the smaller containers as they would be easier for the janitors to hoist up for emptying in the larger bins.
5. Recycling News. American Family Services is now offering pick-up of leftover items after yard sales. Majestic VF, a new business in northern Palmer, is handling recycling in an exemplary manner. Cindy will include a brief shout-out of praise to them in the township newsletter.
6. Tonnage Reporting. Cindy distributed a hand-out explaining how tonnage reports are calculated. For consistency, Palmer will use the county report calculation instead of the Act 101 calculation. She will create this report annually in April or May. The tonnage from the e-cycling event may be shared by the 11 participating communities (1/11th to each).
7. Recycling Grants Summary. Cindy distributed a report on the grants received from 1990 through present day. She will create this report annually in April or May.
8. Diversion Rates. Cindy distributed an educational hand-out on diversion rates.

9. Miscellaneous:

- a. Karen reported that the residents of Glenmoor 55+ community are still separating their recyclables. She will contact the association and inquire about single stream for the residents. Cindy volunteered to come out and talk with them about recycling, if needed.
- b. Diane asked if there are any stats available for views of recycling pages on the website. Cindy will ask Brenda.
- c. John reported that the code enforcement officer is investigating the mattress and other trash that appear to come from houses along the bike path. There is a potential newsletter article about keeping the swale by the bike path clear of yard-waste debris in order to avoid flooding. In some cases, the yard waste was still in plastic bags.

Litter Collection Event. Heath reported that a container of metal and half a pick-up truck each of trash and recyclables were collected from the Palmer Bike Path on Saturday 3/19. Participants in the event were Karen Wollman, Tom Ganssle, Heath Ganssle, John Marks, and Diane Halasz.

Old Business

1. Bike Safety Day (Fairview Park, Saturday 4/23, 10am to 1pm). Contact Rob to volunteer.
2. Electronic Recycling Event (Nazareth Intermediate School on Tatamy Road, Saturday 4/16, 9am to noon). Volunteers are needed. Deanne reports that she was told the event was being talked about in Harrisburg. She registered with Keep PA Beautiful to get safety vests and other necessities. Tom D will bring hand trucks, safety vests, and a cooler for water. Tom D recommended that planning begin for next year's event right after this one ends. Members are encouraged to distribute flyers for the event.

New Business

1. Earth Day (Saturday 4/23, time & location TBD). John will register the event with Penn DOT and Keep PA Beautiful websites. Location and time will be announced later. Karen may try to round up some volunteers from the Glenmoor community to do some clean-up. John advised on road safety.
2. Drug Take-back (Saturday 4/30). It was briefly noted that this event will take place. Hospitals take back old prescription medicines and the county has a drop-off.
3. Litter break-down rates. John brought a pamphlet that listed the time it takes for various items of litter to break down in the environment.
4. Karen was invited to join the committee and accepted the invitation. Ann Marie will seek approval from the BoS.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Tom Dittmar; second: Deanne Werkheiser. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday April 27 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Palmer Public Library

Minutes submitted by: Diane Halasz