

Palmer Township ESC – Meeting Minutes

Environmental Steering Committee

March 28, 2012

Attendees: Tom Ganssle, Rob Reese, Chris Briglia, Cindy Oatis, Tom Dittmar, John Balas, Rob Natkie, John Olock, Terry Cooper, Bob Lammi,

Meeting opened: 7:02 PM

Guests: Chris Caras (J. P. Mascaro), Matt Daniels (Greenstar), Richard Smith (Greenstar)

Meeting Attendees: Gerald Gamlin (Twp. Resident), Dennis Potter (Twp. Resident), Ameda L. Eck (Twp. Resident), June Roethnger (Twp. Resident), Catherine Grey (Twp. Resident), Christine Beifuss (Twp. Resident), Stan Schule (Twp. Resident), Richard Vorholy (Twp. Resident), Iverna T. Randolph (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. Tom G. also explained the purpose of the Township ESC and the ESC monthly meeting schedule. He gave brief mention of the ESC's goals and initiatives and saving the Township money.

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

Tom G. explained that the Township is renewing the waste hauling contract and mentioned the most viable options for this renewal that will streamline the hauling process and save Township residents money. He offered brochure materials for the public's use. Tom G. also mentioned that the City of Allentown is receiving a grant in the amount of \$260,000.00 for achieving a recycling volume rating of 32%. He then introduced Cindy O. and the presentation.

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 and that 902 and 904 grant amounts are based on recycling amounts. She then explained that the (3) components are recycling, trash and hauling. She stated that these components will be bid separately. She also explained that the single stream fully automated system would save the Township the most money. She proceeded through her presentation and asked the public for questions and/or comments.

Public Question and Comment Session

1. Will the amount of (collection) trucks increase due to the separate bidding components? Cindy O. said no because there will only be a single hauler. The (3) separate bidding components of the contract will be awarded to (1) hauling contractor.
2. Does the recycling material go to a single sorting company? Cindy O. answered yes and that the sorting company would be like Greenstar, for example.
3. How are residents to manage placing the container on a steep slope? Also; are residents responsible for the replacement cost of a container that is lost?
4. Where do residents place the new containers on the property during the week between pick-ups? There is a Township Ordinance regarding acceptable locations of trash containers on a property. Cindy O. said she would look into the Ordinance further.
5. Is the Hartley Avenue recycling facility still going to be available to the residents? The answer is yes.
6. Is the 96 gal. container large enough for a normal weeks trash? The answer is yes.
7. What about grass clippings, what do we do with those? Cindy O. explained that the resident will need to pay extra for a collection of bagged/trashed grass clippings. She further mentioned that the Township has (2) yard waste collections per year. There is also a yard waste drop site on Berks Street. Rob R. mentioned that a resident can also take small amounts of yard waste to the Hartley Avenue facility. Cindy O. said there are advertisements on the Township website, fridge magnets, flyer and other sources for pick-up times and dates. Tom G. mentioned the benefits of cutting and leaving/mulching the grass clippings. Tom D. expanded on the benefits of cutting and leaving the grass clippings.
8. How much will the toter containers cost and will the residents be responsible to pay for them?
9. Will the new toter containers be delivered to residents? The answer is yes.
10. Tom D. expands on the need to recycle more and reducing trash and also mentions the PADEP rules and regulations regarding electronic equipment recycling
11. Are we the residents going to pay more for the new service or save money? Cindy O. said no and that it isn't more expensive to sort the mixed material. Rich Smith of Greenstar said no and that it is important to consider cost avoidance and the company's rebate depending on the type of recycled material.
12. Cindy O. told the meeting attendees to feel free to handle the sample toter container in the back of the meeting room.
13. Rob R. mentioned scrap metal recycling at the Hartley Avenue facility and urged meeting attendees to educate others to scrap their metal waste there instead of leaving it curbside for scavengers to pick up.

End Public Q&A Session 7:50pm, Continue Regular Meeting 8:02pm:

Approval Of Minutes: Feb. 22, 2012 minutes approved.

Hauler Report: (1) Chris Caras briefly discussed a couple of minor complaints from residents.

Recycling Coordinator Report: (1) Cindy O. said that she will meet with Rachael Miller in Wilkes-Barre regarding the 902 grant for the recycling center improvements. She mentioned that the Township can apply for this grant this year. (2) Cindy O. requested ESC feedback from the presentation. (3) Bob L. questioned which communities use the toter system. Upper Macungie, Phillipsburg, NJ, South Whitehall are examples. (4) Bob L. mentioned that it could be beneficial to use those towns as an example of present use in the presentation. The point being there are other Towns in the vicinity that use this system and it is working. Rob R. suggested including pictures. (5) Cindy O. recommends excluding the bid process from the presentation because it is confusing. Tom G. agrees with excluding the bidding process. (6) Cindy O. suggested placing the sample toter container in the hallway during the next ESC meeting. (7) Rob R. further suggested leaving the sample toter container on the premises between meetings. (8) Cindy O. also suggested to place a 50 lb. bag of sand in the container to show its ease of use and maneuvering.

Old Business: (1) Tom D. mentioned that Tom Adams is moving forward with acquiring the recycling center steps. (2) Rob R. discussed the great PA Cleanup. He said that the DOT will supply safety equipment and it is scheduled for Apr. 21, 2012; April 28, 2012 rain date. Contact Rob R. to volunteer.

New Business: (1) The ESC year's initiatives 2012. Palmer Community Weekend was mentioned. Tom G. reminded the Committee that regular items on the monthly agenda appear as year initiatives and shouldn't. (2) The energy audit will require funding that is not available in the ESC budget. (3) Tom D. mentioned that the Treevitalization program is active and the next scheduled planting is at the Hartley Avenue recycling facility. (4) Rob R. gave a brief update as to the progress of the bike path signage. He will ask Tom Adams for further information. (5) Cindy O. briefly discussed the funding for the recycling center improvements. Tom D. mentioned that 902 grants are prioritized for (3) municipalities.

Announcements: (1) Rob R. announced that the Recycling banner is ready.

Adjournment: 8:45pm motion to adjourn meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Township Library conference room.

Minutes submitted by Chris Briglia April 23, 2012.