

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2015**

Attendees: Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Dittmar, Diane Halasz, Heath Ganssle, Tom Ganssle,

Guests: None

Public Meeting opened at 7:02 PM at Palmer Public Library

“Meeting minutes” (March): Not approved- no quorum

Recycling Coordinators Report: Cindy O. reported that Palmer received approval from the PA Department of Environmental Protection that the township be categorized as a *Pay-as-you-throw* community. This approval provides Palmer priority status for future 902 grants. Palmer will be utilizing the services of Rizz Containers & Disposal, LLC for the recycling of scrap metal at the recycling center. Collection is expected to begin next week.

- Residential recycling totals (including Hartley Ave.) for 2014 are 2,431 tons. This amount is 245 tons more than 2013 & 504 tons more than 2012.

- Cindy advised the committee through articles and discussion of the rapidly changing recycling market. This downturn is a result of oil prices, the China market, etc. While the impact is significant in the U.S. it should not have too much of an impact on Palmer.

- Easton Area School District recycling efforts – school officials mostly unresponsive

- Cindy will meet with Chris Christman (Township Manager) to discuss the purchase & distribution of smaller waste & recycling toter carts to specific Palmer residents requesting such.

- Cindy & Tom Adams (Public Works & Services Director) discussing plans to secure an area at Berks St. Yard Waste Drop-off Center for small amounts of leaves left in residents’ lawns after the early winter weather of Nov. of 2014. They will be considering options for weekends with no charge for drop-off and a possible 20 cubic yard container at the Hartley Ave. recycling center. Existing yard waste containers at Hartley will be emptied more often due to high drop-off volume during spring months.

Old Business:

- **YPA** – T. Ganssle submitted a revised Year Plan of Action due to the committee’s termination of involvement with Hazardous Material and E-Cycling Collection events in 2015.

- **Great American Clean-up** of April 17th results were discussed. 12, 50 gallon garbage bags were filled that morning by 6 ESC members. 4, 50 gallon bags were also picked up on the west side of Bethman Road & Greenwood Avenue. Committee would like to get more Palmer residents involved in the collection by announcing a collection day in April of 2016 where any resident may clean areas in their respective neighborhoods. Tom G. volunteered to write an article in *Today’s Palmer* explaining such.

- **Community weekend plans:**

- Tom G. presented a Community Weekend set-up plan for August, 2015, as was discussed at March ESC meeting. Main display, as last year, will be Native Plants & Pollinators, with Bee information provided by Sharon Zondag (area beekeeper) with live plants donated by Palmer Nursery, or other nurseries if needed. One side of tent will be displayed by the Bushkill Stream Conservancy & the other side will display ESC give-aways, recycling information literature & brochures, & a photo gallery of the 25 years of ESC service to Palmer Township. Diane H. suggested a Kid’s Corner with

some type of game of matching adult butterflies with their larval caterpillar stage. She also suggested a survey inquiring of Palmer residents to ascertain who might have a wildlife garden, pollinator garden, etc. on their properties. Lawn mulching mower, Berks St. gift coupons, & a few Books entitled: *Bringing Nature Home* will be raffled off at the tent this year.

- **ESC members are asked** to bring in pictures of ESC events to May meeting to choose pictures to be displayed & arranged in the photo gallery.

- **Rain Barrel Display:** Due to such little interest in rain barrels expressed by residents at community weekend events of previous years, it was decided not to display a rain barrel at the community weekend tent nor at the Chrin Community Center for 2015.

New Business: None

- **Tom G.: Motion to adjourn, Tom D.: Second** **8:30 PM**

Next Meeting: **May 27, 2015 7:00 PM** – Palmer Library

Minutes submitted by: Tom Ganssle 5/29/15