

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2016**

Attendees: Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Dittmar, Heath Ganssle, Tom Ganssle, John Marks, Diane Halasz, Rob Reese, Karen Wollman

Absent: Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Nancy Nicholas, Deanne Werkheiser

Guests: None

Public Meeting opened at 7:01 PM at Palmer Public Library

Approval of March Minutes.

Motion to approve: Tom Dittmar. Second: Rob Reese. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Recycling Coordinator's Report

There is no recycling coordinator's report. John Marks asked about work being done on the Hartley Ave recycling center property. It appears that a swale is being dug in one area and that digging is going on at another location. Cindy Oatis will find out the purpose of the work.

Old Business

1. Mattress & other trash found along bike path. John Marks will follow up with the code enforcement officer to see if any action was taken.
2. Drug take-back. The county's prescription drug drop-off location is at the county courthouse before the security checkpoint.
3. Great American Clean-up. Karen Wollman, her husband Jay, and their neighbor Tom Coriell collected two 50-gallon trash cans of bottles and cans and one 35-gallon can of trash along Corriere Road on Saturday 4/23. One power washer and 2 hub caps were also found. The other litter clean-up scheduled for 4/23 did not take place and is rescheduled to Sunday May 1 at 10:00 AM. Meet at Fairview Park.
4. Additional litter collection events for fall 2016 (Tom G). Tom Ganssle is keeping a log of places the ESC has cleaned up and will send this to Chris Christman and Tom Adams. ESC members should send a list of places they've cleaned to Tom G.
5. E-Recycling Event (Deanne W.) Saturday 4/16. This was a big success. Thirty six to 37 tons of material were collected; many televisions were brought in; 645 cars passed through. Thanks go to all members who assisted with directing traffic.
6. Bike Safety Day (Fairview Park Saturday 4/23 (Rob R). Over 100 children were registered and close to 90 showed up, despite the bad weather. The kids received bike helmets and bike inspections. It ended with a community bike ride. The event sponsors were Bike Smart Easton and Coalition for Appropriate Transportation; Scott Slingerland was in charge. John suggested that for future bike events, the group contact the Easton Express Times and WFMZ TV for publicity.
7. Comprehensive Plan Update. Rob Reese asked about the status. Current status is uncertain but Cindy suggested friending Cindy Carmen on Facebook, which would give access to her posts on status.

8. Recycling Tonnage Reports. John will re-send a copy of the handouts to Rob Reese.

New Business

1. Report from Costa Rica on recycling & national parks (Diane). Diane reported that recycling bins are all over the place in Costa Rica. They are nicely constructed with a trio of cans raised off the ground on posts and a small roof to keep out the rain. The cans rotate to make them easy to empty. There is very little litter on the ground. In their national parks, only one corner is developed for access to people; the remainder is left wild for the animals.
2. Proposal to form a sub-committee to work on educational workshops (e.g., composting, rain barrels, etc) (D.Halasz). The most recent composting seminar was held in 2009. Compost bins had become too expensive due to the rise in petroleum costs and shipping. It was also difficult to find a location to have the programs that were not affected by weather. There was also interest in rain barrels. Motion was made by Rob Reese to establish an education sub-committee of the ESC to research educational programs and the funding required. Tom Dittmar seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously by voice vote. Diane Halasz will be the chairperson of the sub-committee. Members will be: Tom Dittmar, Tom Ganssle, Heath Ganssle, Cindy Oatis, and Rob Reese. Sub-committee intends to meet once a month on the same night as the ESC but an hour earlier. Education will be planned for next year. Cindy Oatis noted that budget requests must be finished by August.
3. Proposal to form sub-committees to work on organizing routine litter collections with more community involvement (D.Halasz). Tom G had created an article for the township newsletter on a community collection but the newsletter was published later than anticipated and the article was dropped. Tom G wanted a loosely organized event where people would clean up their own properties, take pictures and send them in for website publication. Tom D preferred a more organized approach. Tom G would come up with some dates for a general clean-up for fall and spring. This would be used to gauge interest.
4. Northampton County Household Hazardous Waste Event 5/21/2016 at Northampton Community College. Cindy will resend the updated flyer to the ESC members. Ken Zinis found a new vendor to collect used tires. Ken Z has not yet requested volunteers to assist at the event but he may do so as the event nears. People should plan on arriving by 7:30 AM or 8:00 AM.
5. Proposed Mission Statement and By-Laws for ESC. Tom G will be distribute these at the May ESC meeting. Discussion will take place at the June meeting. Diane will send the mission statement to Tom G and John.
6. Easton West Ward Project. Rob Reese said that this Saturday they will be working on clearing tree wells and applying mulch. Volunteers will meet at 8:30 AM at Paxinosa at 12th and Northampton Streets.
7. Karen Wollman reported the American Family Services is coming to pick up the leftovers from the Glenmoor Community's yard sale on 5/7.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Tom Ganssle; second: Karen Wollman. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

Next meeting: Wednesday May 25, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Palmer Public Library

Minutes submitted by: Diane Halasz