

Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2016

Attendees: Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Dittmar, Heath Ganssle, Tom Ganssle, John Marks, Deanna Werkheiser, Karen Wollman

Absent: Diane Halasz, Nancy Nicholas, Rob Reese,

Guests: Ken Starace

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

Approval of Agenda: Motion: D. Werkheiser., 2nd – T. Dittmar. All approve voice vote.

Approval of the “Minutes”: May 2016 ESC meeting – Motion: T. Ganssle, 2nd K. Wollman. All approve voice vote.

Recycling Coordinator’s Report - Cindy O.

- Yard **bulk waste collection** just completed. Typical minor problems with calls of missed pickups but went well otherwise.
- Cindy will meet with township personnel for fine-tuning on **new recycling center**.
- Cindy spoke with Chris Christman (Township Manager) about the possibility of PESC becoming a PA **Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)** since the idea has surfaced at the last & some previous ESC meetings. Chris responded with neutrality in reference to PESC evolving into PEAC but requested that the ESC develop a 5-year plan for long-term goal setting & to keep budget concerns in line with goals. He also suggested ESC align with other Palmer committees with a 5,7,9 maximum membership number for majority voting within a quorum.
- C. Christman has not submitted prospective member, K. Starace’s ESC membership approval to Palmer Board of Supervisors yet. He requests a letter from Ken so Chris may introduce Ken & his qualifications properly to the PBoS. Chris also expressed his appreciation for the contributions of the ESC to the Palmer Community.
- Cindy provided two EAC references before the meeting for members to peruse. She discussed two EACs: Bushkill Township & Lower Saucon as examples of very viable successes of current local EACs. A discussion with all member input ensued and the pros & cons were expressed.
- **Pros:** A Palmer EAC would be exposed to ideas & activities of all other EACs in PA because of the annual collective meetings, newsletters, etc., a PEAC might be held in higher esteem by Palmer administration & BofS because individual EAC members would individually research areas such as protection, conservation, management, promotion & use of the township’s natural

resources and environmentally sensitive areas. This would increase members' comprehension and eventual mastery of the above issues to better advise Palmer's Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Board and other governing bodies on land acquisition & property management.

- **Cons:** Cost expenditures of approximately \$500-\$1,000 / year, major increase in committee paperwork for annual reports, etc. and a dramatic increase in members' time commitment to become proficient in knowledge of items stated above and the attendance of additional meetings of EAC conferences, etc. & Palmer tri-monthly BofS.
- **Motion:** to table to next month's ESC meeting, ensuing EAC discussion, to give members time to read over the 2 EAC references provided by Cindy – D. Werkheiser, 2ND – T. Ganssle.
- J. Marks will research meeting dates & *minutes* acquisition for Lower Saucon Valley & Bushkill Township to provide ESC members opportunity to peruse their activities & events.
- Cindy updated the committee on the proposed changes to the electronic recycling law in PA by Representative Chris Ross. Most industry and recycling professionals remain opposed to the current law and proposed changes by Representative Ross.
- Cindy discussed the distribution of smaller waste and recycling carts to residents set to begin the week of July 11th. The available carts will go first to the elderly, handicap, and infirm.

Education Sub-Committee – No report - D. Halasz (chairperson) not present

- Next sub-committee meeting on June 27th, 7PM, Diane's residence

New Business

- T. Ganssle. previously drafted & sent a proposed **PESC Mission Statement and Structure** paper to members to be discussed. Members provided input for changes, corrected errors, etc. Tom will make appropriate changes & resend to members for further discussion at July meeting.
- C. Oatis – requested budget items –ESC should prioritize items for possible purchase.

Adjournment: 8:25 PM - Motion: T. Ganssle, 2nd – D. Werkheiser

Next meeting: 27 July, 2016