

Palmer Township Environmental Steering Committee – Meeting Minutes

Environmental Steering Committee

July 22, 2015

Attendees: Ann-Marie Panella (Board of Supervisors Liaison), Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Nancy Nicholas, John Marks, Diane Halasz, Heath Ganssle

Guests: None.

Failure to have a quorum of its membership present it was determined that the Public Meeting would go forward and opened at approximately 7:10 PM at the Palmer Public Library – public meeting room

- **The May 2015 ESC “meeting minutes”** were reviewed.
- **Recycling Coordinator’s Report:**
- Revised list of firms that take “Recyclables” was updated by Nancy Nicholas and provided to Cindy. The list will be posted on Palmer’s Web Site.
- Cindy Oatis attended a ribbon cutting for a newly established Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling facility at the Waste Management Site in Pen Argyle, PA. Both Waste Management and Lehigh Valley Health Network’s fleet of vehicles are CNG fueled. The CNG facility is open to anyone using CNG as a fuel.
- Waste Management Customer Service Call Center responds to citizens requests for “special pick-ups.” Cindy Oatis has liaised with the Call Center’s staff. Cindy has direct access via telephone to both the national and regional center directors for faster response to issues faced by residents of Palmer Township.
- Cindy Oatis has requested of Waste Management to draft their monthly reports in a format that is readily usable in drafting her reports and Waste Management has complied.
- Cindy Oatis successfully reached out to the Easton Area School District and the two elementary schools located within Palmer Township will increase their recycling efforts with the start of the 2015-2016 School Year. Ms. Oatis will present an enhancement to the existing recycling program to the teaching staffs during an upcoming “In Service” training session.
- Cindy Oatis researched various types and sizes of recycling containers for placement within the Township’s Park System. The selected container’s exterior will be blue in color and have a “Palmer Recycles” logo. The test site for the new recycling containers will be Fairview Park.
- The heavy rain and wind experienced on 15 July 2015, resulted in a number of trash and recycling containers to be blown around. Waste Management assisted in realigning the containers to the appropriate residences and Cindy Oatis will follow up matching the container’s serial number with our master list.

- A survey form for those who may seek a “smaller trash/recycling container” will be distributed to the ESC for its review. The “form,” once reviewed and finalized, will allow Palmer residents to provide feedback about their desire to replace their current trash and recyclable containers with Sixty-Five (65) gallon containers. These survey forms will be available at various locations: Community Weekend; on-line; Township Office. The smaller containers will have wheels and a flip top similar to the current larger containers.

- **Old Business**

Community Days Weekend topics, project(s) report(s) updates:

- 25th Anniversary Display - 2/3 completed
- Great American Clean-up Display - completed
- Native Plants - Seasonal blooming plants will be available
- Bee Keeper Brochures - In hand and ready for distribution
- Bushkill Stream Conservancy Brochures - Rob Reese not in attendance.
- Book: Bringing Nature Home - 3 books obtained – 2 to Library, 1 to be raffled
- Lawn Mower - E-mail request to Lowe’s – not yet responded to
- Palmer Recycling Center List - Completed and provided to C. Oatis
- Berk’s Street Coupons - Five (5) coupons ready for distribution to raffle winners

- **New Business:**

- Nancy Nicholas noted that trucks on the streets of Palmer Township appear to be striking low laying cable television wires with a degree of frequency. Ann-Marie Panella (Board of Supervisors Liaison), will communicate with State Representative to inquire if there are current regulations or legislation requiring cable companies to maintain their cables at a specified height.
- Nancy Nicholas noted that the tops of the recycling bins are left open once their contents are collected, resulting in rain lying in the bottom of the container. Cindy Oatis will speak with Waste Management to see if there is anything that can be done to ensure that all container lids are in the closed position after pickup.
- NATIONAL TAKE BACK Program (Prescription Drug) drop off is anticipated to take place Saturday, September 12, 2015, at the Giant Store on 25th Street and will be supervised by the Palmer Township Police Department. For more information please see the Palmer Township Web Site.

Nancy Nicholas: **Motion to adjourn.** *Seconded by Diane Halasz. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. 8:30 PM*

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Palmer Township Environmental Steering Committee scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at 7:00 PM at the Palmer Public Library. The August 26, 2015, ESC meeting is cancelled due to the Palmer Community Weekend. Instead a "sub-committee" meeting will be held at the Vice-Chair's residence on 8/26/2015 at 7PM in order to go over the results of the ESC's efforts during Community Weekend.

Minutes submitted by: John Marks, 7/24/2015