

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

**Attendees:** Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Tom Dittmar, Heath Ganssle, Tom Ganssle, Nancy Nicholas, Diane Halasz, Rob Reese, Ken Starace, Karen Wollman

**Absent:** Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), John Marks, Deanne Werkheiser

**Guests:** None

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

**Approval of July Agenda.**

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

**Approval of June Minutes.**

Tom Ganssle explained that he needed to change the date of the meeting in the minutes. Motion to approve minutes with this change: Tom Dittmar. Second: Nancy Nicholas. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Recycling Coordinator's Report**

No report was given because Cindy Oatis was at the PROP (Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania) meeting instead of this meeting.

**Old Business**

1. Education Sub-Committee Report. Diane Halasz reported that the meeting scheduled for July 25 was cancelled because several members could not attend due to weather and other unexpected events. Estimates for the storm drain stenciling and butterfly/pollinator garden are completed; composting workshop still needs to be estimated. The next meeting is Monday August 8. Ken Starace noted that local farmer Dennis Koehler presented a very educational movie at the farm's open house and suggested that he may be able to participate in some way in education programs.
2. Revised Mission Statement and By-Laws for ESC. Tom Ganssle guided us through the revised Mission Statement and By-Laws. Major points are:
  - a. Members will send corrections for spelling, grammar, and other typos after the meeting once the updated version is distributed.
  - b. The scope of the Mission Statement is broader than the ESC's past mission but was deemed appropriate.
  - c. Some text to add to the Mission Statement include reference to education, sustainability, and quality of life.
  - d. The Vision Statement will include a reference to sustainability.
  - e. The Scope Statement will include reference to partnering.
  - f. The Membership section's reference to nonfeasance and removal of a member from the committee will be re-written to eliminate the run-on sentence.

- g. The Board of Supervisor Liaison section's reference to appointing a replacement will be updated to clarify the intention.
  - h. A section for Associate Members will be added. Since these members would be non-voting, they do not need to attend meetings but would be involved in projects of the ESC or provide special expertise as needed. Membership would be open to non-Palmer residents and teenagers, such as Eagle Scouts, who may need to complete a public service project to fulfill their scouting requirements.
3. Comprehensive Plan. Rob Reese presented two booklets that may be useful in updating the township's comprehensive plan. One had information on the impact of land use of waterways and the other had information on connectivity of sidewalks and paths. He will try to get more copies.
  4. Conversion of the ESC to an EAC (Environmental Advisory Council). Tabled until the August meeting.
  5. Upcoming recycling events. The following events were noted:
    - a. Electronic Recycling: 9/10/2016 in Bethlehem. Flyer has been distributed to ESC members.
    - b. Electronic Recycling: Easton and the Slate Belt. Look at Northampton County's Facebook page for more information.
    - c. Household Hazardous Waste: 10/8 at Northampton County Community College.
    - d. Latex paint collection by Habitat ReStore.
    - e. Old medicine collection boxes are located at the Northampton County Courthouse and the Palmer Police Station (right inside the foyer).

#### **New Business**

1. Shade Tree Commission. Rob Reese asked if the Shade Tree Commission still exists. Ann Marie Panella responded that it exists on paper but does not meet.
2. Publication schedule for Today's Palmer newsletter. Ann Marie Panella will obtain the publication schedule for the newsletter, including article submission deadlines and publication dates. This will allow the ESC to publicize upcoming events and educational workshops at no extra cost to the township.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: Karen Wollman; second: Diane Halasz. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday Aug 24, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Palmer Public Library

**Minutes submitted by:** Diane Halasz