

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2016**

Attendees: Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Dittmar, Tom Ganssle, John Marks, Diane Halasz, Rob Reese, Ken Starace

Absent: Heath Ganssle, Nancy Nicholas, Deanne Werkheiser, Karen Wollman

Guests: None

Public Meeting opened at 7:00 pm at Palmer Public Library

Approval of August 2016 Agenda.

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

Approval of July 2016 Minutes.

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

Recycling Coordinator's Report

Cindy Oatis reported the following:

1. Small Cart Distribution. Small recycling and waste cart distribution is in progress.
2. Missing Recycling & Waste Carts. Because about 10 to 15 sets were missing after foreclosure clean-outs and residents taking them when they move, future cart orders will contain a "Property of Palmer Township" over the Township logo. Rob Reese will research Palmer property transfer rules to see if anything can be done.
3. Park Recycling Pilot Program. Evaluation of the Fairview Park pilot is in progress. Upon favorable review, the program may be extended to other parks.
4. New Recycling Center. Construction design is in progress.
5. Today's Palmer Newsletter. Articles for the November issue are due now. If possible, the committee would like a reference to spring litter clean-up days placed in this issue coming issue. The deadline for the spring 2017 issue is November 28 for publication in February 2017.
6. Refrigerator Recycling. PP&L is reinstating their Refrigeration Appliance Recycling Program.
7. Recycling Contamination. Recycling contamination rates are extremely important. The higher the contamination, the less value the recyclables have. Reducing contamination will be a large focus in the industry and on a local level will position the Township better for future waste/recycling contracts. Recycling statistics by weight are not as important as they have been in the past because less glass, aluminum cans, and heavy cardboard are being used for packaging thereby reducing the overall weight of recyclables.

Education Sub-Committee Report

Diane Halasz reported the following:

1. 2017 Budget Proposal. We recommend an Earth Day education program on a Saturday morning at the Palmer Township Community Center. The total cost would be \$1078 to \$1370. Advertising costs for an electronic recycling event and the Earth Day workshops are included in the budget request. We will take the estimate for the larger ad and include it with the event instead of as separate line items. Rob Reese made a motion to combine the composting and rain barrel workshop, storm drain stenciling, pocket butterfly garden workshop, and associated advertising as one budget item for 2017. Tom Ganssle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. Diane Halasz will reserve space at the community center. If the budget is not approved, the reservation will be cancelled.
2. Green Guide. The article on Invasive Plants was distributed before the meeting and will be used as a template for other articles. All members of the ESC committee are requested to select a topic and write an article before the September 2016 ESC meeting. Members have selected the following topics: John - litter and bees, Rob - storm water, Tom G - native plants, Cindy – the current state of recycling, Ken - bike trails and trail courtesy (with Rob Reese), Tom D - composting.

Old Business

1. Review 2017 Budget Requests. Two litter clean-up budget items listed at the May 2016 ESC meeting are no longer needed: Roadwork Ahead Sign (\$54.96) and Stand Up Traffic Sign (\$48.30). The 2017 budget requests appear below in order from highest priority to lowest.
 - a. General education. Cindy Oatis will do the estimate.
 - b. Electronic recycling event. Cindy Oatis will do estimate and include the cost for advertising.
 - c. Litter clean-up - \$138 for litter pick-up tools and reachers.
 - d. Composting, rain barrels, storm drain stenciling, and pocket butterfly garden - \$1030 to \$1170.
2. Proposed Mission Statement and By-Laws. Tom Ganssle distributed the changes made after the last ESC meeting. It was noted that the Comprehensive Plan may affect the Vision Statement, but that will not prevent us from completing the document at this time. The following changes were proposed:
 - a. Mission and Vision Statement text will be streamlined.
 - b. Membership text will be changed to indicate missing 3 consecutive meetings may be grounds for removal of a member upon unanimous vote of the ESC.
3. Hazardous Waste Collection. Northampton County is holding this event on October 8. ESC members will not help out at this one because there was not much to do at the previous event this year.
4. Comprehensive Plan Meetings. Cindy advises ESC members to attend as they are very interesting.

New Business - none

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Tom Ganssle; second: Diane Halasz. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday September 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Palmer Public Library

Minutes submitted by: Diane Halasz