

Palmer Township Environmental Steering Committee – Meeting Minutes

Environmental Steering Committee

September 23, 2015

Attendees: Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Ganssle, Diane Halasz, Heath Ganssle, John Marks

Guests: Ken Zinis, Environmental Services Coordinator, Community & Economic Development, County of Northampton

Public Meeting opened at approximately 7:00 PM at the Palmer Public Library – public meeting room

- **Introduction of guest:** Ken Zinis, Environmental Services Coordinator, Northampton County was introduced by Tom Ganssle. Mr. Zinis made an all-encompassing presentation to the ESC members in attendance, including projects as diverse as:

June 2015 Latex Paint Recycling event held at the Habitat Lehigh Valley's ReStore located at 1053 Grape Street, Hanover Township. 610-776-7499 There were 600 to 700 gallons of latex paint collected during their first two collection events. The collected latex paints have been processed and are now available in 15 colors at a costs of \$18.50 per gallon.

A third Latex Paint Collection date will be announced in the future.

Drug Collection Program: 13 to 15 Northampton County Police Departments (City, Regional, Township) are drafting Letters of Intent to be sent to John M. Morganello, District Attorney of Northampton County. Once the Letters of Intent are received, the D.A. will request funding from the State Association of District Attorneys to purchase "collection boxes." The collection boxes will be placed at each of the participating Police Department Headquarters. The collection process is to be voluntary and "No Questions Asked" and "Non-Confrontational."

Food Waste Composting – The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded a "grant" to fund to startup a "Food Waste Composting Program" at Northampton County's Gracedale Nursing Home and the County Prison (NCP). Northampton County is one of three entities within EPA's Region 3 to receive these funds. The County will contract with Haines & Kibblehouse, Inc. to process the food waste at its site just off of Route 611 North. The intent is to reduce the tonnage of materials sent to the landfill simultaneously creating a sustainable product.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday October 10, at the Northampton County Community College between the hours of 8:30 am and 2:00 pm. Volunteers are sought to assist with traffic direction and answering questions. Volunteers are welcome for any duration on the date of the event. All day volunteers should plan on arriving at 7:30 am and remain thru 2:30 pm. More information on this countywide event can be obtained by contacting Ken at kzinis@northamptoncounty.org or calling 610-559-3200 ext 6

Tom Ganssle thanked Ken Zinis for his presentation and insights.

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- **Recycling Coordinator's Report:** Cindy Oatis informed those present that Palmer Township is working in close unison with the Easton Area School District's two public schools located within Palmer Township (Palmer Elementary & Tracey Elementary Schools) and their Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) to enhance the recycling programs at these facilities.

Palmer Township was awarded a \$250,000.00 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP). These funds will be used to initiate site improvements at the Township's proposed new Recycling Center at South Nulton and Hartley Avenues.

The Township recently purchased twenty-two permanent recycling containers to be placed in the Township Parks during the early spring of 2016. The 22 containers cost \$15,000.00, which is a savings from their published costs. The containers are large in size and are heavily constructed.

Palmer's next Newsletter will contain an article seeking citizens who would request a smaller trash and recycling "cart." Those seeking smaller carts will have to meet specific criteria which will be outlined within the upcoming article.

- **Tom Ganssle presented the following:**

AUGUST 26 Sub-committee meeting:

Community Weekend 2015 – Nice display this year (native plants & ESC 25 year anniversary, insect ID blocks), live plants made tent look inviting, plenty of coverage although members need to sign up on schedule.

- Need new string lights & giveaways depleted.
- Raffle tickets – Item: Mower- # of submitted tickets: 105; Item: 2 Books - # of submitted tickets: 27; Item: 4 Berks Street coupons - # of submitted tickets: 46

Community Weekend, 2016

Theme: Palmer Parks (440 acres) & Bike Trails – 15 parks and 12 miles of paved walking/hiking/biking paths.

- **Briarcliffe, Fairview, Keystone, LaBarre, Mill Race, Newburg, Old Orchard, Palmer School, Penn Pump, Riverview, Stephens St., Wolfes Run, Fox Run**
- **History** - date when opened & changes to present
- **Pictures of each** – old/present
- **Bike path route & where it connects on Palmer's borders.**

- **Bicycle & /or accessory giveaway/raffle** – vendor: *Broken Spoke* – possible deep discount on new bike, definitely free accessory or service package. Type of bike/price?
- **Large map of Palmer for back of tent wall.**
- **Bike safety & registration time, possibly Sunday of Community Week**
- **Country Lawnscape in Glendon still willing to provide live plants for our tent for 2016.**
- **National Trail Association contact.**

Other endeavors:

- **Bike safety & registration time, possibly Sunday of Community Week**
- **Great American Clean-up**
- **HHW biannual pick-up**
- **Composting?**
- **Diane Halasz inquired as to when the ESC would hold its discussion relating to the development of its 2016 schedule of activities. Tom Ganssle stated that in the past we would hold the meeting late spring. Diane asked if we could move it forward and it was agreed that the Planning meeting should be held December/January.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm