

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2016**

Attendees: Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Tom Dittmar, Heath Ganssle, Tom Ganssle, John Marks, Diane Halasz, Rob Reese, Ken Starace, Deanne Werkheiser, Karen Wollman

Absent: Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Nancy Nicholas

Guests: None

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

Approval of September Agenda.

Motion to approve: Deanne Werkheiser. Second: Rob Reese. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of August Minutes.

Motion to approve: Tom Ganssle. Second: Ken Starace. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Recycling Coordinator's Report

Cindy Oatis reported the following:

1. 2017 Budget - ESC. ESC requests were submitted. \$120 for 2017 membership in the PA Environmental Council (PEC) will be funded from the 2016 budget; Cindy will submit the membership request to PEC.
2. 2017 Budget - Palmer ESC Becoming an EAC. There was a re-cap of the pros and cons from the June 2016 ESC meeting of becoming an EAC. It would also require that an ordinance be drafted, reviewed by solicitor, approved by the Board of Supervisors, and that money be added to the 2017 budget for training sessions. Becoming an EAC would take up a lot of time in 2017. Tom Ganssle made a motion to table further discussion on becoming an EAC until 2017. Diane Halasz seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by voice vote. Some PESC members could attend the Lower Saucon Valley or Bushkill EAC meetings to become familiar with how an EAC functions.
3. 2017 Budget - ESC Education Sub-committee. Sub-committee requests were modified as follows: cost for reserving the community center and the deposit fee were removed as they will be waived by the township and \$600 was added to support publishing the Green Guide. The ESC will have its own page on the Palmer Township website.
4. Fairview Park Recycling Pilot. Pilot revealed a 90% contamination rate and has been deemed unsuccessful. Some discussion ensued as to reasons for contamination such as poor lighting at night, inability to see contents of containers (visual cue). The containers will remain in the park and the program tweaked in an attempt to gain better results. More containers will not be purchased.
5. Recycling contamination. The items that are seen most often as contaminants of recycling are plastic shopping bags, plastic toys, and food. A discussion of alternatives to educate residents followed: separate mailing (\$3800), website, notice on bill. The education sub-committee will address this topic.

6. Park Dumpsters. Dumpsters were relocated from four parks to the Harley Avenue facility because of unacceptable household trash not generated as a result of park usage. It was noted that the township may see an increase in illegal dumping in other locations.
7. Palmer Newsletter. The deadline is 11/28/2016 for articles that should appear in the spring 2017 newsletter (estimated mailing date 2/5/2017). Green Guide articles are too long for the newsletter.
8. Grant Tally Update. The amount of the 2014 904 recycling grant was \$79,478, bringing the lifetime grant total to \$2,710,811.87.
9. Household Recycling Containers. As a follow-up from a previous meeting, there is no township requirement for move in-move out forms or Certificates of Occupancy for existing houses that could be used to ensure that recycling containers are not removed from the property when it is sold.

Education Sub-committee Report

Diane Halasz reported the following:

1. Green Guide. Articles written to-date: Bees, Invasive Plants, Lawn Care, Littering, Native Plants, and Recreation Trails. References must be updated and articles of a more basic nature on recycling written.
2. Mission. Original mission was to research the 2017 education program needs and funding required but a greater ongoing need for education has come up in the ESC meetings. Diane Halasz made a motion to expand the mission of the Education Sub-committee to include the planning and execution of education programs themselves. Tom Ganssle seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous voice vote.
3. Next sub-committee meeting will be decided off-line. At that meeting we will pick a date for our Earth Day education program.

Old Business

1. Proposed ESC Mission Statement and By-Laws (Tom Ganssle). Updated version was sent out on 9/28/2016. Tom Ganssle made a motion to vote on the Mission Statement and By-Laws at the October 2016 meeting. Diane Halasz seconded the motion. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. Committee members should review the version sent on 9/28 and send comments to Tom within a week.

New Business

1. Fall 2016 Trail-Roadside Litter Pick-up. Date was set for Saturday 10/22 from 9am to 11am. John Marks will send specific meet-up location. Cindy has enough money in the budget to purchase the litter grabber tools; John M will pull together the list and send it to Cindy, who will purchase the items. If anyone collects litter on their walks in the township, send a note to Tom Ganssle for his litter log. The stats can be posted on the ESC web page when it's available.
2. 2017 Electronic Recycling. Deanne Werkheiser noted that another multi-community electronic recycling event is being planned for 2017. \$250 was included in the 2017 budget request for this.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Tom Ganssle; second: Karen Wollman. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday October 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Palmer Public Library

Minutes submitted by: Diane Halasz