

Palmer Township ESC – Meeting Minutes

Environmental Steering Committee

October 24, 2012 (revised 11/30/12)

Attendees: Rob Reese, Tom Ganssle, Chris Briglia, Tom Dittmar, Cindy Oatis, Terry Cooper, Denise Veres, Bob Lammi

Meeting opened: 7:03 PM

Approval Of Minutes: Minutes approved with revisions for July and September 2012.

Guests: Chris Caras (Mascaro), Ken Staras (resident), Tess Mondello, Matt Daniels (Greenstar), Harry Dittmar, Mrs. Dittmar.

Hauler Report: (1) Nothing to report.

Old Business: HHW 2012 event discussion: (1) Tom D. thanked all participants and reported approximately 2,000 vehicles were served. Approximately 500 vehicles turned away. Spring and Fall events are being planned for 2013 and exact dates are forthcoming. Removing material from vehicles was an inefficient operation. The County is looking into other companies that would be interested in doing the events. (2) Ken Staras questioned whether or not the event should begin earlier. He also questioned if this year's turnout was just an anomaly or will we expect a growth in popularity to continue. (3) Rob R. said that people generally want another event. (4) Matt Daniels made the following comments: Suggested to first remove the material from the vehicles as quickly as possible. Publish notice to the media prior to the next event and stress that improvements were made to make things quicker; however, that patience is still required. Vehicles waiting in line earlier than startup should be emptied immediately to get them out of the way before the traffic surge. Site signage needs to be improved and more emphasis on "No Latex Paint". (5) Denise V. suggested a more direct advertising/education to the public regarding latex paint due to the confusion. Perhaps advertise just before Earth Day. (6) Tom D. mentioned he has a flier produced with the requirements for disposing latex paint. (7) Rob R. mentioned that there are organizations that accept latex paint (ie. Habitat For Humanity). (8) Matt D. stressed that an emergency exit is needed in case of an emergency. He also mentioned that HC facilities need to be provided to be ADA compliant. He also questioned whether or not serving refreshments is a good idea. (9) Tom D. said that if the County can find sponsors to donate refreshments, it is a great idea. He questioned if the College could recommend any environmental students to help and that training is needed to be a paid worker. He also stated that the separation of HHW material has to be directly from the vehicle and that it can not be staged anywhere else on-site. (10) The Committee agrees that we need damage control to let people know the inconveniences at the last event, will not happen again and it will be much more efficient next year.

New Business: (1) Tess Mondello mentioned that Japanese Knot Weed is a problem and needs more control along the streams and parks in the Easton area. She recommended that the problem be treated on a water-shed basis because it is a threat to stream bio-systems and needs to be managed. She wanted to know if anyone from our Committee was interested in forming a group or if the Committee knew of any groups that would be interested in getting rid of them. (2) Rob R. mentioned the Bushkill Stream Conservancy. (3) Tess M. mentioned that all maintenance programs involve heavy herbicide use in the beginning then re-vegetate with native plants. (4) The new-year calendar was discussed. Tom G. made the Committee aware that elections will be a bit different this coming year (ie. Chairman & Vice-Chairman). The Committee made a motion to participate in the Great PA Cleanup in March and it was approved. (5) After the Committee held a brief discussion of the 2013 ESC YPA, Tom G. requested the Committee to review the 2013 YPA and offer any comments or suggestions to him.

Recycling Coordinator Report: (1) Cindy O. briefly discussed the recycling ordinance revisions required by the DEP. She stated that the special yard waste recycling collection has been heavily advertised and over 450 fliers passed out. The DEP 902 and 904 grant applications are requiring a sustainability breakdown and to better facilitate this, the Township has revised the recycling/solid waste budget to better clarify the costs associated with recycling, yard waste collection, yard waste and dropoff centers. Several ESC members and Palmer Board of Supervisors participated in the tour of the Greenstar recycling operation. Many thanks to Greenstar for providing this interesting and informative look at the process of single stream recycling. Though way ahead of schedule, the Township and Waste Management have begun the process of evaluating areas within the Township that may need manual-collection of waste and recycling. Cindy also indicated that educating the municipal employees regarding the new contract has also begun. (2) Bob L. said he would like to have some pages in the web site devoted to the subject and that the sooner the education begins, the better. (3) A follow-up request to the committee for submission of businesses that have independent recycling of special recyclable materials such as batteries, automotive chemicals, HHW, electronics, etc. was made by Cindy O. Please forward these to her directly as she will be updating the website and publishing the list in the next newsletter. (4) Bob L. followed up with Rob R. regarding the need for ESC business cards.

Misc. Comments & General Discussion: (1) Tom D. said he witnessed leaves in large bags being put in trash and that these bags should be tagged as "non-collectable". (2) The Committee held a brief discussion regarding leaf pick-up. (3) Cindy O. discussed options of what to do with used green recycling containers. Should they be kept or recycled when new containers arrive? If kept, an idea would be to use them as yard waste containers.

Announcements: The Committee agreed to hold the Holiday Dinner at Moscatto's Restaurant; details will follow.

Adjournment: 9:20pm motion to adjourn meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Township Library conference room. *Minutes originally submitted by Chris Briglia November 11, 2012. Minutes revised November 30, 2012.*