

**Palmer Township – Environmental Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2016**

Attendees: Ann Marie Panella (BOS Liaison), Tom Dittmar, Heath Ganssle, Tom Ganssle, John Marks, Diane Halasz, Rob Reese, Ken Starace, Deanne Werkheiser, Karen Wollman

Absent: Cindy Oatis (Recycling Coordinator), Nancy Nicholas

Guests: None

Public Meeting opened at 7:07 PM at Palmer Public Library

Approval of October Agenda.

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

Approval of September Minutes.

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

Recycling Coordinator's Report

No report was available due to absence of recycling coordinator.

Education Sub-Committee Report

Diane Halasz reported the following:

1. The sub-committee has not met due to schedule conflicts. The next meeting will be in 2017.
2. Date for Environmental Earth Day. No date has been set for workshops because of schedule conflicts.
3. Green Guide. Heath's Lawn Care article was sent to the ESC. Publishing of the guide is not expected until 2017 because more articles are needed and the holidays are approaching.
4. Ideas for Green Guide Articles: For those committee members who have not yet selected a topic to write about contact Diane Halasz for suggestions.

Litter Collection Sub-Committee Report

Tom Ganssle reported the following:

1. Re-schedule Trail/Roadside Litter Clean-up. Will not be rescheduled in 2016 due to approaching winter.
2. 2017 Earth Day Litter Clean-up. Discussion of pros and cons was held concerning a township litter clean-up event on 4/22/2017 where groups sign-up to participate and are assigned specific areas to clean. Benefits are the ability to clean up an extensive area, awareness of the ESC, and educational in separating litter from trash. Cons are potential liability issues for the township should a participant be injured and whether sufficient time exists to plan and organize the event. Deanne Werkheiser made a motion that we move forward with the clean-up day on 4/22/2017. Tom Ganssle seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by voice vote. Groups would need to sign up a month in advance by calling the township municipal building. Ann-Marie Panella will ask Chris Christman if the township receptionist can take the sign-ups. John Marks will contact Penn-DOT to arrange the trash pick-up.

Ann-Marie indicates that if Penn-DOT cannot pick up the trash, the township's Public Works department can do so. A limited number of printed flyers will be created to publicize the event in specific locations. The event details will be worked out by Ken Starace, John Marks, and Tom Ganssle, assisted by Tom Dittmar. Diane Halasz will start the article for the township newsletter; article is due by 11/28/2016.

Old Business

1. ESC Mission and By-Laws Finalization. The ESC decided by unanimous voice vote to retain the language in the Membership section regarding removing a member, to eliminate the words "strive to" from the Mission Statement section, to change the wording in the Subcommittee section to list past subcommittees, and to retain the wording in the Chairperson section. The ESC also decided that the Board of Supervisors (BoS) Liaison section should retain the wording making the attendance of a substitute BoS liaison optional if the official liaison cannot attend. Tom Ganssle made a motion to accept the revised version as discussed tonight; Diane Halasz seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote. Diane will finalize the documents as per the discussion and send it to the committee. Cindy Oatis should review this version with the township manager, Chris Christman.

New Business

1. Palmer Township Comprehensive Plan. Wednesday, 11/30/2016 at 6:00 pm was chosen as the date to meet with the contractor that is preparing the comprehensive plan. John Marks will inform Cindy Oatis. Location has not been chosen.
2. 2017 Schedule of ESC Meetings. Diane Halasz will create the schedule of 2017 ESC meeting dates.
3. Electronics Recycling. Support of a multi-community electronics recycling event in May 2017 similar to the one that took place in 2016 was discussed. Deanne Werkheiser reports that 9 of the 11 communities that participated in 2016 have expressed interest in the 2017 event. Pros and cons of holding the event at various locations (EAHS, Nazareth Intermediate school, off Emrick Boulevard) took place. Tom Ganssle will contact the EAHS superintendent to see if the site could be used; Deanne will check with the Nazareth school. The county may contribute \$2500 toward the event but this is not certain. John Marks made a motion that the PESC do everything in its power to assist in the electronic recycling event to tentatively take place on Saturday 5/6/2017, site to be determined. Tom Ganssle seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous voice vote. Diane Halasz will write a blurb for the township newsletter (11/28/2016 deadline) referring readers to Palmer Township's website.
4. Annual ESC Dinner. Dinner will take place on Wednesday 12/7 at 6:30pm at either the 1818 Tavern (if sufficient space is available) or The James Eatery. Tom Ganssle will make the reservation.
5. Environmental Poster Contest. Rob Reese reports that judges are needed for Lafayette University's annual environmental poster contest on 12/8/2016. This would require a two hour commitment. Rob will send a note with the details and information on how to volunteer.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Tom Ganssle; second: Deanne Werkheiser. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday January 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Palmer Public Library

Minutes submitted by: Diane Halasz