

Palmer Township ESC – Meeting Minutes

Environmental Steering Committee

November 28, 2012

Attendees: Chris Briglia, Tom Ganssle, Tom Dittmar, Bob Lammi, John Balas, Terry Cooper, Cindy Oatis, Rob Reese, John Olock

Meeting opened: 7:03 PM

Approval Of Minutes: Minutes approved with revisions for October 2012.

Guests: Chris Caras (Mascaro)

Hauler Report: (1) Nothing to report. He mentioned that the yard waste pick-up after the storm event was very successful and that all required truck signage was in place..

Recycling Coordinator Report: (1) Tom G. requested an update on issues regarding the new hauling contract. (2) Cindy O. offered the following comments: The residential neighborhoods are being evaluated for pick-up needs and a meeting with Bill Buskirk is scheduled. The public education aspect is being coordinated. She reported receiving very few phone calls from residents with questions or comments. A FAQ section for the Township website is being created and slated for January 2013 publishing. (3) Tom G. inquired about the color of the new containers. (4) Cindy O. said the containers will be dark green with a dark green lid for trash and a yellow lid for recycling. (5) John B. questioned the timing for the logistics of the new system. Cindy O. said the new system will be implemented in May 2013. (6) Cindy O. said the new contractor waste management will deliver the new containers. Citizens may recycle their old containers or keep them for yard waste. (7) John O. stated that he experienced a lot of enthusiasm within his neighborhood regarding the new program.

Old Business: New hauling contract public education discussion: (1) Cindy O. stressed that when we say comingled, we need to differentiate that it is comingled recycling material only, not trash. (2) Rob R. suggests allotting ½ Hr. of time prior to our regular meetings in Feb, Mar. and Apr. 2013. He also suggested we have new containers available for display for those meetings and also provide them at Township Hall so that people can see them. (8) Bob L. would like to see more concentration on mass-education of the public. (9) A motion was made to address resident's questions and comments for ½ hr. prior to our regular meetings on Jan., Feb., Mar. and Apr. of 2013. This time will be allotted for public education purposes. A unanimous vote yes for the motion. (10) Cindy O. mentioned the Feb. 2013 Agricultural event scheduled for Fri., Sat. and Sun. on or about the second weekend in the month. She needs volunteers. Terry C. volunteered to coordinate the event and Chris Briglia will assist in the coordination of and attendance to the event. (11) Tom D. stresses reviewing educational material with each ESC member to prepare us to educate the public at upcoming events. (12) Cindy O. said she is prepared to launch the education program in Jan. 2013. We will be briefed at the Jan. 2013 ESC meeting. This item should be included in the Jan. 2013 ESC meeting agenda. (13) Tom G. suggests that the 2013 YPA should consist of the main annual events and public education of the new hauling system and nothing else. (14) A motion was made to implement the public education program at the Jan. 2013 ESC meeting. (15) Rob R. inquired as to when the display containers would be available and that we should have them by Feb. 2013. (16) Cindy O. said that was not a problem and otherwise the new containers would be delivered two weeks prior to the new contract start date May 1, 2013.

New Business: (1) Cindy O. made recommendations to the Committee bylaws and organizational structure. (2) A motion was made to accept the ESC organizational structure for 2013 and thereafter. A unanimous vote yes for the motion. (3) The ESC yearly calendar of events was discussed and meetings are set for the 4th Wed. of the month Jan. through Oct. 2013; in the Township Library Conference room. The Nov. 2013 meeting shall be held in the Municipal building conference room if the Library room is not available. No meeting in Dec. 2013. (4) Tom G. recommended that Chris B. submit this schedule of events to Brenda D. for her review prior to publication.

Misc. Comments & General Discussion: (1) Tom D. mentioned the Recycling event in 2013 and that AERC can do the job but will charge a set-up fee. He mentioned that the County is communicating with three other potential companies to work the event and he will advise the Committee further in the future. (2) The Freecycle company was discussed with regard to whether or not to promote them on the Township website. (3) Tom D. said that Freecycle is not certified to perform electronic equipment collection. (4) Bob L. said he will not advertise a company that does not have the appropriate certifications and permits for electronics collection. He also suggested that Tom D. and the County should recommend approval of companies that want to advertise and also to explain their disapproval in accordance to regulations.

Announcements: (1) Tom D. said that the County was asked to hold two HHW events in 2013. (2) ESC members now have business cards, thanks to Bob L. for providing them. (3) The Envision program was mentioned. (4) Tom G. thanked Denise Veres and Robert Natkie for their and contributions over the years.

Adjournment: 8:45pm motion to adjourn meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Township Library conference room.
Minutes originally submitted by Chris Briglia December 12, 2012.