

PALMER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

June 27, 2018, 6:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** – In attendance were Tom Dittmar, Nancy Nicholas, Cindy Oatis, Ann-Marie Panella, Ken Starace, and guests Bridget Salantri and Monica Weiss.
2. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** – A motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 23, 2018, was made by Dittmar, seconded by Starace, and approved by all.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Bridget Salantri, a Palmer resident, attended the meeting to express concern regarding the regional use of the herbicides Atrazine and Roundup. She indicated her education and background is in horticulture; has recently experienced overspray damage of these chemicals on her property by a local farmer; and gave the committee an overview of the problem. Her concerns involve several factors including its persistence in the environment; the high level of usage in our area due to farming; levels of birth defects and rising cancer rates in the Lehigh Valley; and the fact that it has been banned in the European Union since 2004 and in the State of Minnesota.

After some discussion, the committee felt the subject warranted additional thought, research, and action. Unfortunately, our members most familiar with waterways and their issues (Reese and Smith) were not present. Starace will forward information on local groups that might be of assistance to her and Oatis will provide additional information on an expert in this area at Lafayette College.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Palmer Library Children's Environmental Education Program - July presentations will include a bee presentation by Mia Gaeta, and a recycling presentation by Nicholas and Oatis. Starace will support and update as needed with all.
- B. Palmer Moravian Church Mission Camp - Nicholas and Oatis organized a litter collection on the bike bath behind Aldi and returned to the church for a recycling discussion and activity.
- C. 2019 Projects and Goals (Budget) – After discussion, the committee evaluated each based on the number of currently active members and the workload involved, and decided on the following priorities for 2019. Members will research estimated costs of each and will formalize the budget request at the July meeting.
 - i. Paper Shredding Event (spring or fall)
 - ii. ReStore Stuff-a-Truck Collection (spring or fall)
 - iii. Recycling Education (ongoing throughout the year)
 - iv. Tire Reclamation (as needed)
 - v. Earth Day Litter Clean-up (April)

- vi. Tatamy Ecycling Event @ NMS (May)
- vii. Palmer Library Environmental Education (summer)
- viii. Palmer Ecycling Event @ EAHS (fall)

5. UPDATES/REPORTS

A. Recycling Report – C. Oatis

- i. Yard Waste – Oatis discussed the problems associated with the increasing amount of yard waste and the management of same under our current WM contract. Monica Weiss suggested that small amounts (such as the 4 bundle amount accepted at Hartley) be accepted for free at Berks as it is at Hartley. Oatis indicated that she would include that for consideration in an upcoming meeting with T. Adams. A motion was made by Dittmar, seconded by Starace, and approved by all to recommend to the Township that they begin verifying residency through appropriate identification, prior to accepting any yard waste at the Hartley center.
- ii. Recycling Contamination – Oatis discussed the education campaign in progress nationwide by all recycling haulers and processors as a result of China's ban on recycling contamination. Flyers addressing the problem were passed out, information will be placed in the upcoming newsletter, and on the upcoming website revision.
- iii. Parkview Trees – Oatis addressed member questions raised at a previous meeting by indicating that Palmer Public Works replaced the 6 dead trees on Crest Blvd with October Glory Maples.

- B. Supervisor Report – Supervisor Panella reported that based on the numerous WM trash and recycling collection issues of the past 3 weeks, administration would be addressing these concerns with Waste Management. While the Township recognizes the overall good service they have provided over the last 5 years, there is need to insure that what recently transpired does not happen again.

6. NEXT MEETING - July 25, 2018

- 7. **ADJOURNMENT** - A motion to adjourn was made at 8:41pm by Dittmar, seconded by Starace, and approved by all.