

PALMER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 24, 2018, 6:30pm

Minutes

- 1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. In attendance were Tom Dittmar, Nancy Nicholas, Cindy Oatis, Ann-Marie Panella, Jeff Young, and guests Ginny Sciorra and Doreen Shaffer. The committee welcomed our guests and explained that the ESC's purpose is advisory in nature and serves at the direction of the township manager and the board of supervisors. Ms. Panella spoke about the history and future of the committee. Dittmar reviewed the committee's focus on participating in recycling and household hazardous waste events, MS4 educational requirements, community-based litter cleanups, and other items such as keeping our community updated on various environmental issues such as recycling, spotted lanternfly remediation, etc.
- 2. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. August and September Meeting Minutes – After a brief review and discussion, a motion was made by Smith, seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all, to approve the August Minutes. Another motion was made by Nicholas, seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all, to approve the September Minutes.
- 3. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. 2019 Meeting Calendar – The committee discussed and agreed to keep the 2019 meeting schedule of 6:30pm, the fourth Wednesday, of each month. No meetings will be held the months of November and December.
 - B. Spotted Lanternfly/USDA Remediation Program – Oatis and Panella discussed the planned USDA remediation program slated for implementation in quarantined municipalities, of which Palmer is one. The plan includes the injection of chemicals into the trees commonly known as the *Tree of Heaven* which is the host for the lanternfly. Once the tree dies, the responsibility for and cost for tree removal will fall on the property owner. Many residents and municipal officials have expressed concern regarding the financial and logistical costs associated with these responsibilities.
 - C. 2019 Year of Planned Action – Discussion involved reviewing previous suggestions, the desires of the members, and the reality of the large amount of options on the table. Oatis made a suggestion that instead of numerous events, that we consider grouping items together in an Earth Day celebration/event and including litter cleanup, ReStore collections, paper shredding, etc. Smith made a motion to move forward investigating the creation of one event encompassing several items and then continuing to participate in the Northampton County hosted recycling event. The motion was seconded by Nicholas and approved by all.
- 4. REPORTS**
 - A. MS4 Education – Smith explained the MS4 mandate for the benefit of our guests including regulations, mandatory education, outreach, design, minimum control measures, etc. Ann-Marie suggested that Madison contact T. Adams for the purpose of creating a proposal and submitting same to Oatis, T. Adams, and C. Christman for the purpose of accomplishing the required steps for Palmer to accomplish prior to 2020, when the work is required to be done.
- 5. ADJOURNMENT** – Motion was made by Dittmar to adjourn, seconded by Nicholas, and approved by all.
- 6. NEXT MEETING: January 23 , 2018**