

Palmer Township

Environmental Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2022, 6:30PM, at Palmer Township Municipal Building

1. Roll call

- a. Present: Bill Ruch, Tom Grube, Tom Dittmar, Paige Strasko, Joseph Armato, and member of the public Zane Rice.
- b. Absent: Ginny Sciorra and Diane Halasz.
- c. The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM. Bill Hartin joined the meeting at 6:58PM.

2. Approval of meeting minutes from September 28, 2022

- a. Grube made a motion to approve the minutes from September 28th, 2022. Dittmar seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Updated bylaws

- i. Ruch stated once again there were not enough members present to approve or discuss the updated bylaws. Armato discussed adding new members and that candidates will be interviewed on November 7th. Ruch reiterated there was not a need to review the bylaws without more committee members present. The committee agreed and decided to review the bylaws in the new year with new committee members. Ruch stated the February meeting will be to discuss bylaws and January will be a reorganization meeting to introduce new members to the committee and update them on goals and future projects.

b. Canvas bags

- i. Ruch stated he wanted to keep the agenda item on there for the future.

c. Other Old Business

- i. Grube asked what happened with the resident that won the e-cycle raffle and Ruch updated everyone that she picked up the weed whacker and was fine with having her name in the newsletter but did not want a picture included.

4. New Business

a. First quarter event ideas/plans

- i. Ruch summarized from the last meeting what the purpose of the agenda item was and asked if any committee members had ideas for educational events that the committee could do between January and March. Dittmar discussed the programs he used to do with the committee in the past like composting, food waste, yard waste, and vermiculture. Committee members, Strasko and Armato discussed plans for spring educational programs that Dittmar could run or assist with, as well as first quarter plans. Ruch stated the first quarter will be used to advertise the second quarter educational event as well as contact waste management about

educating residents on trash pickup. Committee members and Armato talked about changing protocols for haulers and educating residents on what goes into the trash, to make sure the trash lid can close, as well as decreasing weight/amount of waste from Palmer residents. Ruch reiterated that during the first quarter the committee will plan and advertise an event in the second quarter for Dittmar to educate residents, as well as contact waste management about ways to educate residents on what goes into the trash and what will be picked up by the haulers.

b. Review planning documents

- i. Committee members and Strasko reviewed planning documents sent from Cyndie Kramer for the September Recreation Board meeting. Ruch discussed basins on the Carson Lot 1 and 2 plan, but Armato stated that the basins were already changed at the Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting the previous night. Armato discussed the outcome of the BoS meeting and the upcoming apartments on Van Buren Rd, and some other plans that were included in the planning document packet from the September Recreation Board meeting. Armato also mentioned the new planning director Kent Baird that committee members can reach out to as a contact for upcoming projects in the township. Ruch stated he would reach out to Baird and find out the status of a project in the packet on Van Buren Rd.
- ii. Hartin came in and asked if his property near Wolf's Run was discussed. The committee then discussed upcoming changes to Hartin's property from new construction at Wolf's Run. Hartin asked if there were any expectations of the ESC when they received these plans. Armato explained the ESC can contact Kent for upcoming projects and attend planning meetings and Board of Supervisor (BoS) meetings and urged the committee members to be active with other township committees. Committee members discussed the need to review plans early as a committee to improve environmental impact in the township and Ruch stated he would reach out to Baird to have access to the plans when they come up. Armato asked to send an email to Baird asking to have all upcoming projects sent to the ESC as soon as he gets them.

c. Lawnmower raffle

- i. Ruch updated the committee that the lawnmower was now being stored at the municipal building. The committee members and Armato discussed having the raffle at the tree lighting, how the raffle would work and who would be at the tree lighting to do the raffle. Grube asked Strasko to reach out to the committee members when she knew the date of the tree lighting to see who would be available to hand out tickets.

d. Waste management contact information

- i. This agenda item was discussed with first quarter event ideas.

5. Other new business

- a. Hartin brought up a problem he had on his property with a bear recently raiding his beehive and roaming close to his home. Hartin also described the problems he had trying to contact officials to help him find a solution to his bear problem. Committee members discussed other wild animal experiences, and possible ways to mitigate this growing environmental problem.

6. Reports

a. Board of Supervisor's

- i. Armato reported on BoS updates during the review of planning documents. Armato stated he would coordinate with Ruch about the lawnmower raffle at the tree lighting.

b. MS4

i. Storm drain labeling update

- 1. Strasko stated she sent the committee members the complete storm drains list of emblems that needed to be relabeled around the township. Grube mentioned not applying emblems in the cold and Ruch stated they would move the emblem reapplication to the spring of 2023. Strasko also stated that she has not heard yet about when the emblems would be delivered.

ii. Adopt a storm drain

- 1. Strasko asked Armato if he had investigated the website, she sent him yet and Armato stated he has not. Committee members mentioned other townships in the area that have an “adopt a storm drain” program. Armato and Strasko will work on a adopt a storm drain project.

c. Earth Day subcommittee

- i. There were no new updates from the earth day subcommittee.

7. For the good of the order

- a. Strasko reported the residential weight from the e-cycle event in September was 21,089 pounds. Committee members discussed what that meant for the township. Armato pointed out that it was equivalent to about a pound from every resident. Ruch also thanked Strasko for the letter to the Earth Stewards and mentioned that it was sent out to their committee recently. Zane Rice brought up a point for the Earth Day sub-committee if they wanted food a good company to investigate was Beyond Me because they try to reduce waste and use environmentally friendly products.

8. Next meeting: January 25, 2023

9. Adjournment

- a. Grube made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dittmar seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28PM.