

The regular meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)** for October 2021 was held tonight via Zoom Web-Conference. Members in attendance were: Vice Chair Greta Bunin, Kurt Ahrens, John Raisch, Michael Freeman, and Sidney Kahn. Staff present: Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager and Lauren Walter, Special Projects Coordinator. Guests present: Logan Welde, Clean Air Council; Rebecca Schultz

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Bunin called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

### **1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Upon motion of Mr. Kahn, seconded by Mr. Raisch, the meeting minutes for September 20, 2021 were unanimously approved by the EAC.

### **2. PRESENTATION**

#### **A. Logan Welde, Clean Air Council**

Logan Welde from the Clean Air Council, which advocated for a recently adopted plastic bag law in Philadelphia, offered more information about the data used for the Philadelphia legislation and answered questions regarding potential impacts of bans and/or fees on plastic bags.

Ms. Bunin may attend the next Springfield Township EAC meeting for more discussion points, as Springfield is considering the possibility of such legislation. Mr. Ahrens mentioned it could also be a matter to be addressed at the County, rather than municipality, level. Ms. Elliott mentioned that there is an environmental branch of the Montgomery County Planning Commission to see if there is a way the County could move this forward.

Ms. Elliott added that doing PR on the benefits of using your own reusable bags is a great idea, but from a regulatory perspective, a ban would be hard to implement at the Township level.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Waste Reduction Committee**

Mr. Kahn has been doing a lot of reading on this topic. In the area of food waste, he stated that Media Borough started a food composting program, and he would like members to consider a future discussion on whether it is feasible in Cheltenham, even on just a commercial level.

### **5. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

#### **A. Communications and Engagement:**

- 1) Mr. Ahrens gave an update on the booth/tent he and Ms. Ankrom ran at High School Park's Parktoberfest: they displayed some of the photos from the Sustainable Yards Contest and also had copies of the Comprehensive Plan survey. They also created a bike corral with barricades. Overall, it was a successful event.
- 2) Sustainable Yards Contest 2022 – Ms. Bunin stated she will invite Leigh Altadonna of Wyncote Audubon Society to the next meeting to talk about the possibility of yard signs for next year's contest, as Bird Town does. She also contacted Diane at Collins Nursery to see if they would be interested in including EAC yards in next year's sustainable yards tour.

Ms. Schultz asked about the intention behind marketing it as a competition, and suggested that the EAC could make it a more collaborative model and still raise awareness.

B. Water and Ecology

- 1) Ms. Bunin stated that this Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) is having its annual Watershed Milestones award ceremony and John Raisch will be recognized as a Watershed Hero. Virtual attendance is free. They are also having a silent auction to raise money.
- 2) Construction has begun on the stormwater management project within the Keneseth Israel synagogue parking lot.
- 3) TTF will be providing the Township with a list of stormwater management projects and a list of priorities as part of its involvement on the Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC).

C. Energy and Emissions:

- 1) Mr. Freeman connected with PECO Smart Energy Usage data tool which will allow the EAC/Township to get the last two years of gas and electric usage for all the buildings.

An analysis from this tool could be helpful to provide to the Commissioners. For instance, the data will give a more accurate picture of energy usage – which cost alone cannot show because energy costs fluctuate. Mr. Freeman will work to get things straightened out on the PECO side and is optimistic to have everything up to date next month. He will reach out to Ms. Walter for anything specific that is needed from the Township.

D. Mobility and Healthy Living:

- 1) Mr. Raisch thanked the EAC members for nominating him for the TTF Milestone Watershed Hero Award – he mentioned that he was interviewed and promoted many sustainable topics. Interviews will debut Wednesday at the Award Ceremony.
- 2) There is a new Friends of Tookany Creek Trail group on Facebook, which has 50 followers already.
- 3) While biking along Pennypack in aftermath of Ida, Mr. Raisch observed plastic bags washed up everywhere, and he may go back to take a video to create a Public Service Announcement.

E. Sustainable Development and Local Economy – None.

F. General Updates – None.

G. Staff Report

- 1) Ms. Elliott reported that the Township is working on the final details of the stormwater management fee. The final SAC meeting is this Wednesday, to make sure the policy developed is as solid as it can be.

6. **NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting of the EAC is scheduled for *Monday, November 15, 2021* on Zoom.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, Ms. Bunin adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.



Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager

Submitted by: Lauren Walter, Special Projects Coordinator