



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

EAC January Meeting Agenda

January 24, 2024 7 PM – Springfield Township Free Library

Ending

- Committee & Associates:
- Guests:
 - None scheduled

WELCOME TO MEMBERS & GUESTS

- Welcome to Commissioner Brendan May

ATTENDANCE & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November Minutes - Stephen

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH

- Review any communications received by or disseminated from the EAC. - Aaron

NEW BUSINESS

- 2024 Officers - Aaron
- Officially thanking Peter Wilson for his service to the EAC. - Aaron
- Desiree Rammon has resigned as a full member of the EAC effective January 1, 2024. Discuss candidates for vacancy. If a consensus is reached, make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. - Aaron
- Upper Dublin EAC Gathering - request for presentations - Martin

- We Conserve EAC Gathering - who wishes to attend. There is a registration fee, we'd like to confirm attendees and have the township pay. - Martin
<https://weconservepa.org/eac/eac-network-conference-registration/>
- Discuss if we should continue to have the Native Plant Sale. - Martin
- Discuss suggesting to the BOC re-establishing the Open Space Committee. One proposal is for the Committee to be responsible for awareness and soliciting contributions to the Township Open Space Fund. Another proposal is to have a member of the EAC, Parks & Recreation, and Planning committees be part of the Open Space Committee to ensure communications across the committees.

TOWNSHIP UPDATE/QUESTIONS

- Updates - Brendan

Set up for next month's meeting

- We ask for volunteers to set up the meeting room for next month's meeting. We will document the volunteer in the minutes.
- Set up includes arranging tables and chairs for 12 Committee members and chairs for attendees from the township or visitors.

OLD BUSINESS

Junkluggers update:

Aaron spoke with Kevin Maharaj who is the High School advisor for the Sustainability Club. The date for the event is confirmed (3/30/24, with a rain date a week later) and the space at the school is reserved. I got permission to use the school district logo and our logo on a flyer. Both logos, and event details have been sent to Junkluggers who will design a flyer that we can use.

Bag Ban Ordinance update:

- Have gone business to business (Stephen, Aaron, Richard, Peter) to share the example signage and business FAQ information
- Stepehn is meeting w/ Susie tomorrow morning (Friday, 19th) to discuss some proposed changes to the bag ordinance program guide based on feedback and what we see in other townships with bag bans in place ahead of ours.
 - Proposed change is to not do a collection and distribution point but to publish that to people who need reusable bags to reach out to our EAC email address. And if they have a need for
- Stephen will be presenting to the Rotary next week (Tues, 23rd) on the bag ordinance update. He doesn't plan on having slides, will bring copies of the business FAQ/signage to share and just speak to the program status and the feedback we've gotten from the business.

Intern for Social Media / Posters

Asher Silberman, a senior at Springfield Township High School and co-president of the Sustainability Club has agreed to be our Social Media / Print design intern. Please contact Martin with any requests for Asher.

LED Streetlights - The EAC didn't work on this, it was reported at the January BOC meeting. We should incorporate the LED cost savings and pollution avoidance into the Renewable Springfield effort.

Copied from Jim Lee's recent newsletter:

"Assistant Township Manager Craig Lloyd recently presented the latest figures regarding the energy and operational savings that have been realized as a result of the 2017 township-wide streetlight retrofit program, which came with an upfront capital cost of \$433,000. The change from conventional metal halide, sodium vapor and mercury lamps to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) has resulted in a 57% reduction in kilowatt hours and associated energy savings of \$146,249 through October 2023. The non-measured operational savings associated with lamp replacements is estimated to be \$120,576. The payback on the investment is tracking to be ahead of the anticipated schedule that was contemplated by the Board at that time, which is a win not just in long term cost savings but also in the reduction of energy usage and periodic waste disposal of the bulbs."

Support of the School District and the Sustainability and STEM clubs

- Superintendent Yannacone and Joy are in touch about various initiatives.
- The Sustainability Club will appear before the School Board in February to call for solar panels to cover the full roof of the Middle School, including the new addition.
- It would be helpful to re-do the energy benchmarking on the three muni-bldgs to compare to the initial benchmarking in 2019. The energy usage in the library has climbed significantly starting last summer, and we need to figure out what's changed. I presented to the STEM (16 very enthusiastic teenagers) club in December, asking if they would want to take on the energy benchmarking, since this is mostly a data capture and reentry task. They eagerly said yes. Joy is waiting for info from Public Works director Ian Hammer to start this process. The kids are also eager to benchmark their own school buildings (which I've been suggesting to the board for 3+ years) and perhaps have a contest among area schools' STEM clubs to see which schools are most efficient.

Montgo Sustainability & Climate Change Advisory Committee

New county commissioners Jamila Winder and Neil Makhija have created [advisory panels](#) on various topics: transportation, affordable housing, etc. The goal is to create a realistic list of recommendations for the commissioners to implement. Joy has been asked to co-chair the Sustainability & Climate Change committee. Gail Farmer has agreed to coordinate the climate resilience subcommittee, looking at issues like open space and stormwater management. We're

aiming to finish the work of the committees in the first 100 days of the administration, putting us in mid-April.

Energy Transition Plan, and coordinating with other plans

Desiree Ramon, Bernadette Fox, and Joy continue to update and expand the township's Energy Transition Plan. As discussed at the EAC December planning meeting, Joy wants to work more closely to integrate the energy planning process with those going on in parallel (and mostly in silos, imho) in the rest of the township. Gail Farmer and Joy met last week with Mandy Helwig (chair of the township Planning Commission) on how we can all work together in updating the township's comprehensive plan, which will start this year, to be completed in 2025.

Municipal Buildings Committee

Ron Celentano and Joy continue to work with staff and the commissioners with the hope of putting solar panels on the police/admin and PW buildings this year, utilizing the 30% cost reduction available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING EAC EVENTS

- February 28th, 2024 7 PM – Springfield Township Free Library

Please note, EAC agendas are subject to change without notice.