



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

EAC April Meeting Agenda

April 24, 2024 7 PM – Springfield Township Free Library

Attending

- Committee & Associates:
- Guests:
- None scheduled

WELCOME TO MEMBERS & GUESTS

Welcome!

ATTENDANCE & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February & March Minutes - Stephen

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH

Email traffic was primarily Plastic Bag and No Mow May questions.

NEW BUSINESS

- Plastic Bag - Stephen
- Open Space - Gail
- Recommendation letter to the BOC regarding Ben Schimenick - Joy
- Review Annual Plan - Martin
- E/V panel and demo - Zeta
- Look at potential electrify goal page for township website - Zeta
- Discuss having comments on Facebook and comments on township web page - Zeta

TOWNSHIP UPDATE/QUESTIONS

Updates - Brendan, Chuck

OLD BUSINESS

Single-use plastic bag ordinance :

- We have a large collection of reusable bags from several recent donations. To date no requests for reusable bags.
- To date no requests for single use plastic bags.
- No notable additional contacts via our shared email address regarding the plastic bag ban.
- No contacts from any of the previous residents who had complained in one of the earlier board meetings.

No Mow May has 68 sign ups as of the morning of April 24. More than 100% growth from last year. Signs are being distributed on Saturday. The signs cost \$571.41. The expenditure was approved by the Board of Commissioners when No Mow May was reauthorized for 2024.

The Native Plant sale has been advertised on our Facebook page, cross posted to What's Happening Springfield, and by email to our list. Redbud Nursery was unable to provide the plants based on our date. Primex stepped into the breach and will be providing 250 native plants at the same cost as last year.

- **GIS support available to EACs:** (Bergey) On 4/16 I attended an excellent webinar by WeConservePA, the organization who runs the statewide EAC network. They are offering technical support to any EAC who wants to learn how to use GIS tools for a municipal project. For example, with WeConserve's support, Easton EAC is using volunteers to identify any small "underdeveloped" spots across Easton which could potentially host native plants, e.g., islands in parking lots that currently are bare ground or weed-covered. I think our township's emerging Open Space Commission could utilize something like this, as well as other EAC/Township projects. The data is in the public domain (Montco provides a lot of it); the municipality just needs to have a subscription to software to access and report on the data. I checked with Mike Taylor, who said we use ArcGIS - one of the apps recommended by WeConservePA. If anyone is interested, let me know and I'll send you a link to the webinar recording and Powerpoint. Funding for this project is with [ARPA](#) money.

- **Montgomery County Food Policy Council:** (Bergey) The County just created a [Food Policy Council](#) to coordinate the efforts of the numerous organizations and agencies who provide pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc. to county residents.) I attended a webinar on 4/16 led by

Sam Applefield, who is leading Montco's FPC. I'm very glad to hear about this new council, which intersects with our EAC interests in at least one area: Sam is interested in creating **community composting** to address food waste. I told him a number of EACs are trying to crack this nut from the ground up. If anyone would like more info or to be connected to Sam, please let me know. I'd be happy to connect you. (Tangential follow-up: I made sure Springfield EAC's interest in community composting was included in the recommendations to the County Commissioners as part of their Sustainability & Climate Change Advisory Committee.)

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING EAC EVENTS

May 22nd, 2024 7 PM – Springfield Township Free Library

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