

EAC Meeting Aug. 25, 2021, 7pm

Attendance

Members Present: Aaron (via phone), Joy, Zeta, Desiree, & Melissa

Members Absent: Jay, Steve, Chris, & Patrick

Others: Asst. Township Manager Brandon Ford & Commissioner Liaison Peter Wilson were present.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of July 2021 Meeting Minutes, corrections requested (spelling of Joy Bergey & Patrick Hynes). Pending the revisions, a motion was raised and approved to accept the Aug. meeting minutes.

Public Comment Partner Update/Special Presentations

Joy informed the Commission that PA Representative Napoleon Nelson featured Springfield Township's Solar Tour in his newsletter and that it was generating interest in the community.

Old & New Business

Renewable Springfield Update – Joy B., Desiree R., Melissa

- Chris R. is on vacation but still managing the EAC's Facebook Page.

TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, & WALKABILITY

- Desiree R. shared that the Plug in America Event will occur on Oct. 25 at Weaver's Way, Ambler.
- The draft transportation section of the energy transition plan is complete and ready for public review.
- Desiree plans to crunch the 2020 municipal fuel consumption data. Brandon is to share the id numbers for the Police Hybrids in the Twp. Fuel data logs.
- Mellissa shared that she has been in contact with the School District to facilitate a conversation about promoting renewable energy.
- Melissa also shared that her neighbor is the EPA's regional food waste coordinator and would possibly be interested in being involved in the EAC.

FACILITIES

- Joy informed the Commission about the National Solar Tour scheduled for Oct. 2-3 for which Springfield Township will be participating.
- Zeta suggested that the EAC maintain a list of happy solar residents and share their stories.
- Cmsr. Wilson asked if the Township maintains a list of homes with solar. Brandon responded that a list is not maintained as there is no specific solar permit and constructing such a list would be require a great deal of time and effort from staff.

EAC Meet & Greet – Sept. 29 at 7pm in the Library

- Event is scheduled and the room is booked. The commission reviewed topics to be covered by presenters at the meet and greet (i.e. recycling, stormwater, renewable energy, etc.).
- Concern over rising covid numbers were expressed by several members. The numbers will be continuously monitored and a discussion will occur via email if the need to cancel arises.

Single Use Plastics

- A resident, Richard Metz, requested that the EAC advocate for a single use plastics ban in the Township. Mr. Metz shared the names of several local communities who have or are in the processing of enacting such a ban (Lower Merion, Philadelphia, West Chester, and Narberth).
- Brandon clarified that impending a ban at this point in time would be problematic due to the moratorium on such bans instituted by the Pennsylvania State Legislature. The Moratorium was tied to the COVID emergency declaration and included language that allows the moratorium to remain in effective for six (6) months after the end of the declaration. According to Brandon, the moratorium would not be legally end until Dec. 2021.
- The suggestion was made that advocates for the plastics ban could organize and facilitate a conversation with municipalities who have already passed a ban to learn from their experiences while the moratorium is still in effect. Mr. Metz volunteer to organize a regional conversation on proposing such a ban across several municipalities.

Mosquito Repellants

- A resident, Cynthia Kreylick, raised concerns over the use of mosquito repellants in residential yards by residential properties owners and/or contractors hired by the owners. Ms. Krelick expressed uncertainly over what people and contractors are using for repellants and the potentially hazardous pesticides.
- Aaron suggested that the EAC develop a list of green alternatives for mosquito replants.

Other

- Aaron suggested and the Commission agreed to purchase an Air Quality Monitor.

Open Forum/Public Comment

Commissioner/Township Update

Adjournment

There is to be no EAC meeting on Sept. 22, 2021. Instead, the EAC will be hosting a meet-and-greet event at the Library on Sept. 29, 2021 (pending due to COVID-19).