

## **EAC Meeting Minutes**

May 22, 2024 2024 - 7 PM Springfield Free Library

**Participants:** Aaron Stemplewicz, Martin Ryan, Zeta Cross, Pat Hynes, Joy Bergey, Patrick Eddis, Alex Waldman, Ben Schimeneck, Commissioner Brendan May, Staff liaison Chuck Bailey

**In the audience:** Bud Cook, Karissa Russell, Sophie Evans, Kate Matthews, Theresa Hepner

### **Minutes**

- The February and March minutes have already been approved and posted. April minutes have yet to be approved.

- The EAC presented plaques of appreciation to Sophie Evans and Kate Matthews, co-presidents of the Springfield High School Sustainability Club, who graduate in June. Sophie and Kate have led numerous collaborations with the EAC in the past two years.

- Rick Denzien gave a presentation on the benefits of Electric Vehicle ownership, with the hopes that we will offer an EV day in Springfield soon, where people can see many EV options, and ideally get rides in them. Aaron will follow up with Rick.

- Joy presented on the savings to the township through 12/31/23, all resulting from implementing the recommendations from the energy audits on the three municipal buildings (admin/police, library, and public works): the Township has saved over \$250,000 in gas and electricity costs, and has avoided more than 650,00 pounds of CO2. The EAC asked to present these findings to the Board of Commissioners on 6/10. Chuck will relay that request.

- Zeta walked through Mermaid Park with Fred Stine of the Delaware Riverkeepers Network and Springfield resident Beth Zelesky. Fred and Beth will prepare a report of recommended improvements to Mermaid, to be presented to the Parks and Rec Committee.

- Joy provided three new updates:

- PennFuture has produced an excellent webinar : [A Community Guide to Local Land Use Decision-Making in Pennsylvania](#). It's very clear in

explaining the various roles of municipal elected officials and committees.

- Montgomery County recently created a [Food Policy Council](#). The director, Sam Applefield, is interested in the county supporting community composting efforts. Joy will connect Martin and Sam.
- The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is leading the [Sustainable Energy Partnership](#), a collaboration among Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, and Delaware Counties to find a path to providing renewable energy for those counties' operations.

- Aaron will look into [demand response](#) opportunities with CPower to try to identify ways to reduce our electricity charges. (Follow up: Pat will send Aaron the township energy use for 2023.)

- Aaron will provide an update at our June 26 meeting on high temperature heat pumps that can replace gas boilers.

- Zeta went on record opposing the use of Primex to supply plants for our native plant sale this month, and requested that we use a different vendor next year.

- Next EAC meeting: Wed June 26, 7pm, Free Library of Springfield Township