

EAC June 26th 2024 Meeting Minutes

7pm Springfield Free Library

Attendees

- Stephen, Alex, Martin, Joy, Chuck, Brendan, Aaron, Pat, Ben

Audience: 1 person in attendance.

Minutes

- Welcome & introductions
- Minutes - 2 corrections of typos, will be amended and published as approved for May.
- Audience question
 - Could it be offering an orientation to township residents about how the township recycling program actually works. Bud volunteered to help.
 - Anecdote from Commissioner May on our rate for recycling going down because of how well (clean) our recycling is provided.
- Bag ordinance update - discussed taking the store of reusable bags we had donated to donate them to local shelters or other nonprofit organizations.
- No Mow May - Do we want to do a survey? Yes. What do we want to think about it and pivoting it to more of how to reduce your grass long term. Questions will be sent to committee for review. Chuck only received one or two comments specific to No Mow May participants. One other one was related more to a site obstruction to road visibility.
- Another topic is how to ensure Public Works for older, existing sustainable projects, like riparian buffers. To have the funding to help properly maintain these.
- Review the 2024 EAC annual plan and where we are at.
 - Note, 3 of the policy hybrids are down b/c of a failed battery. They are under warranty and are waiting to have the batteries replaced.
 - School district - middle school tested successfully for powering the addition at the middle school with geothermal.
 - PA Sustainable Communities recertification - Ben will take this back up to see what we need to complete to maintain or improve our status. Will involve getting information from township staff to get this completed.
 - Trail plan - published and being used by township engineer as the basis for a priority list to where we can implement projects as they come up.
 - Public works - Landscaping fleet electrification. Letter of commitment from public works to move towards electrification of their landscaping equipment.
 - Home Yard tools electrification - target October this year.
 - Muni buildings - this is ongoing every month. The biggest focus is solar panels. Presented to the BoC this month on the progress. This has been published to the township website.

- Working with other EAC's - ongoing.
- Rec. Center planning - ongoing engagement.
- Native plant / meadow options for parks - later this year to do a walk about for what could be meadows and other opportunities there could be.
- Parks and Recs contribution to planning - Pending
- EAC recommended reading list - not moving forward at this time.
- Other native planting projects for folded into the Mermaid Park activities w/ the Friends of Mermaid Park.
- New Project idea from Alex : information and verification of what is legitimate for homeowners who would want to put solar panels on their homes to help avoid the scams.
- Community day - need to start planning, there should be updated graphics for the municipal buildings savings in CO2 and \$\$\$ as one of the displays.
- Carson Valley property - 5-6 acres that are considered the "Carson meadow", that is what Carson, EAC, and township have been working on the maintenance of that meadow. There is now a formal agreement with the trust that it must be maintained as a meadow in perpetuity.
- Composting / Rain Barrell - Patrick would like to do that in the Fall.
- Joy - Energy Savings update - Presented to the commissioners on June 12th. Reviewed a summary of what was presented. At this same meeting the Solar Feasibility study.
- Turbines - Norristown dam. Montco is equally committed to getting their municipal buildings to renewable energy. This is an idea that has been around for decades. Looking to install 4 underwater turbines. Would cover about a 1/4 of the municipality energy costs. It needs to be exempted from a license from FERC(Federal Energy Commission). County is also working 4 collar counties to come up with a large scale solar facility for powering the municipal operations of the municipal campus.
 - More info on the dam project :
<https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/4578/Norristown-Dam-Project>
 - EAC would raise a letter to the commissioners for a draft to get to the board in support of this project.
 - **NOTE:** Post meeting, it was recommended after investigation by the EAC chair that the EAC wait for FERC to complete its environmental impact study before putting forward a recommendation to support.
- Township update - no update.
- Zeta's term was not renewed, we have an opening. If anyone is interested, have them apply to the township for the open position.

Actions

- Stephen - check our website for what materials we have which relate to our end to end .
- Stephen & Ben - take the info on bag ordinance to Dim Sum factory.
- Chuck - find out how much \$ we've spent this year to date?
- Ben - pick up the PA Sust. Community recertification.