

West Pikeland Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

11/5/2020 Meeting Minutes

Attending: John Matthews, Warren Fox, Linda Reichert, Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Glenn Wenger, Donna Switzer and Rich Pomeroy

- 1) Call to order: 9:02 AM
- 2) Minutes from October 1, 2020 were approved.
- 3) Karen Mifsud (WPT BOS Member) attended the meeting. No public comment
- 4) Old business.
  - a) Donna organized a Paper Shredding Event for WPT Residents on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the WPT Building parking lot. Once the truck is full, it will leave.
    1. The event is ready to go. Suggested protocols are: limit to 4 boxes, staples and tape are OK, no binders/binder clips/plastic binders/cardboard
    2. Put event on CHESCO, NextDoor App and update WPT website.
    3. Donna will be at the event the whole time starting at 8:45 along with Brian, Janet, Linda and Warren to help where needed.
    4. Charlie Humphreys (WPT BOS) asked John Matthews what the EAC can do to educate the township residents about recycling? It was suggested by council members to focus on recycling alternatives like composting and reduction of plastic use as an educational opportunity for our township residents.
    5. Donna informed the council that 80% of the items (mostly plastics) that are in our personal recycling bins end up in the landfill- the market is no longer there for plastics. Glass/Metal/paper make up the 20% of items in our bins that are actually recycled.
    6. It was suggested that Donna should be one of our guest speakers- "Reducing use of plastics in the era of COVID."
    7. For our next meeting we will discuss putting together a demonstration of a composting bin. Linda will call Carol Armstrong to help set this up.
  - b) Riparian Buffer
    1. Riparian Buffer- What can WPT EAC do to help facilitate the importance of riparian buffers in WPT?
    2. Would like to change the Pickering Creek classification from High Quality to Exceptional Value. Green Valley is actively sampling.
    3. Already participated in one activity with the Audubon Society to improve our streams by planting native plants along privately owned streams.
  - c) Phoenixville Regional Planning Group- Sustainable Grant of \$50,000- WVT, EPT and Schuylkill Township applied to this grant (VPP). If they get the grant money, they will use it to pay for energy consultants. We will not be privy to the results from the consultants.
  - d) Natural Lawns- Glenn- Went to Joe Romano to look at his lawn. Doug Tallamy and Larry Weaner wrote books on converting grass lawns back to native habitat. Larry is local from Philly. He has converted a lawn in Burchrunville. Glenn would like to get advice form them to pass on information onto his clients. Glenn will contact Sharon Richardson to do another presentation on this topic.
  - e) Meeting schedule and format- Melissa will set up the Zoom meeting link on the WPT website. The meetings will e held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Our next meeting will be on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM.

- 5) New Business:
  - a) Stream naming initiative-
    1. John suggested the use of Native American names to acknowledge their existence here in WPT. Naming the streams also creates community engagement to take of the streams
    2. Vicki Laubach has a stream naming program for WVT. John will contact her to set up presentation at our meeting.
    3. John sent out an interactive USGS (U.S. Geological Society) maps of the Downingtown/Phoenixville quadrangle.
  - b) Stream Cleanup event- Plan on having one in May or June in Pine Creek. Engage local Boy Scout Troops. Glenn will contact Vicki Laubach to find out when Green Valley is having their Stream Cleanup event.
  - c) Communication with township etc- John will be the conduit for the information between the EAC and WPT.
  - d) New WPT EAC email for official information. Forward any emails that come to this email address to John/Linda/Janet
  - e) Grant with Chester Springs Library and PECO- We can use this grant with the library to get the information out on switching over to renewable energy to WPT residents. John will email out the Library Grant information to the EAC.
- 6) Adjourn 9:55

Action Items:

- 1) Linda- Call Carol Armstrong about composting bin demonstration.
- 2) John- Contact Vicki Laubach at Green Valley. Ask her if she could talk with us about her stream naming program for WVT
- 3) Glenn- Contact Sharon Richardson to see if she could put together a presentation on restoring lawns to native habitat.
- 4) Glenn- Contact Vicki Laubach to find out when Green Valley is doing their stream cleanup.
- 5) John- Email information to EAC pertaining to the Library Grant.