

West Pikeland Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

5/4/2021 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: John Matthews, Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Glenn Wenger, Rich Pomeroy and Donna Switzer and Linda Reichert. Public: Carin Mifsud and Sarah Newman (helped with the trash clean up event)

- 1) Call to order: 7:33 PM
- 2) Agenda was approved
- 3) Minutes from April 6, 2021 were approved.
- 4) Public comment- Sarah Newman would like to get involved with our Council. She was at the meeting to find out what we do for the WPT community. She has lived 11 years in WPT and 9 of those years on Byers Rd. She is in training for PA Master Water Shed Steward and will have completed the program Mid -June. She would like to help out with our mission.
- 5) Old business.
  - a) Street Clean-up event report- Bryan and Glenn: The event went really well with no complications . Chief Clark and Bob the WPT police officer helped out a lot with the traffic on 113. 55ish bags of garbage were collected along with 12 tires, metal pieces, roofing tiles/house siding, They were able to only do one side of the highway so there is more work to be done. Carin and Kodie were the big helpers. \$60.00 was found and will be used toward purchasing trash grabbers. Stickmans provided food and beverages at the end to debrief. Will need to do an encore event since only one side of the road was cleaned up. When to do this- right now the ticks are bad and weed growth is too tall to get to the garbage. Donna said when a highway is adopted, it is recommended to clean up two times a year. It was suggested November for the next cleanup event. Bryan will look into the Adopt-a-Highway program for WPT EAC.
  - b) Pollinator Garden- Jim does not want the garden near the Township building. The Parks and Rec will partner with us. A spot will be decided upon at Pine Creek Park. John will coordinate with P and R. This project is on hold for now.
  - c) Establishing Communication with local EACs- Glenn: Glenn met with 8 members of local EACs at Delaney Farm, which has many different examples of lawn transformations. The purpose of the meeting was to come up with mutual projects related to Lawn Reduction in the area. Would like to meet once every two months. Came up with a plan to communicate between the EACs to promote planting pollinator Gardens, comprehensive list of native plants to use, work with builders to reduce the use of pesticides, removing vines/invasive plants in the townships. Each township needs to designate a point person to pass on information. Glenn will send info to Melissa and she will post on WPT Facebook page. Also get in touch with Vicki at Green Valley to get the 20 townships of northern Chester County list from her. Call it the Northern County Coalition.
  - d) Talking trash speaker event- Donna: May 27, 2021. It is ready to go and Melissa has added it to the WPT webpage. Need to think ahead for our next guest speakers in August and November. Sarah Newman said she can do the November spot on water shed. She would like input from the EAC for ideas. It was suggested to send out to our personal social web to find a guest speaker for November. We do not want to conflict with the guest speaker library series.
  - e) Shredding Event- Donna: Confirmed with the company for June 12, 2021 from 9-noon. Signs need to go out now and need to change the date on them.
  - f) Phoenixville Area Clean Energy Alliance (PACEA) report- John: BPP Grant will implement the Regional Plan. It was suggested that all members of the WPT EAC read in detail the Plan. Representatives from WPT will be Bryan and Humphrey from the BOS. In the process of

interviewing consultants. Bids are requested and it will be months before a decision is made on a consultant. Will focus on community outreach. A considerable amount of knowledge has already been developed. Plan on educating community members right away and advice to the township i.e. replacement of the burned down barn at Pine Creek park. Coordinate a list of community members by name and get them involved. The goal of this project is to save money for the townships where it should be a win-win for the communities and the environment. Up front cost is \$69,000/ 4 townships. Chester County is paying \$45,000 so WPT is responsible for \$4821.00.

- g) Library Grant- Linda: Official flyer for guest speakers was posted on website. Mandate of the grant is to education WPT about renewable energy. This is a partnership between WPT EAC and the Library so we need 3-4 members at each event. Linda would like to make the event fun so next meeting we need ideas (maybe music). It was suggested to get Downingtown STEM Academy projects displayed at the community gathering. Add speaker info to the newsletter. Glenn will send the info to members of the Northern Chester County coalition and to Vicki at Green Valley. Schedule for the speakers:
- June 5, 4-5 PM, Township Amphitheater- "A Community Conversation about Renewable Energy"- Dennis Rowan and Ronald Fisher
  - July 26, 7 PM, Pine Creek Park Pavilion- Book discussion on "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster" by Bill Gates and "The Future We Choose" by Christine Figueres
  - Sept. 11, 4-5 PM, Township Amphitheater- "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future"- Paula Kline
- h) Newsletter- Donna: Need to get all information to Donna by June 1 in order to review it at the next EAC meeting. Linda- Include Library Grant info.. Glenn- honey I shrunk the Kids info. Bryan-Road Clean up info. John- PACEA info

6) New Business:

- a) Waterway Preservation and Clean up event. Sarah suggested we should survey the residents again for specifics on the issues they have with water on their properties, roadways and township (i.e. storm water effects- erosion, wet basements, water build up on the roads, garbage/sediment in water ways, pesticides, flora/fauna in and along waterways). Get data and then take action. There are Grants out there to address water issues (i.e. Stream Health via Trout Unlimited).
- b) Adopt a highway- Bryan will look into this for the WPT EAC to be in charge of cleaning up 113 between 401 and Clover Mill Rd. Donna will help facilitate this project with Bryan.
- c) Just Joe's Coffee Shop on 113- Warehouse Car Dealership- this would be an ideal spot to put in charging stations for WPT and the manager was enthusiastic when approached with the idea. Follow up on the Grant application.
- 7) Announcements: It was suggested to have a waterway survey at our summer events. At the library seminars have a table with renewable energy opportunities, EAC info and water survey. Bryan will follow up with Sarah for survey questions.
- 8) Adjourn 8:44 PM

Action Items:

- 1) Bryan and Donna- Investigate Adopt-a-Highway for WPT EAC.
- 2) John- Collaborate/coordiante with WPT Parks and Rec on placement of Butterfly Garden at Pine Creek Park.
- 3) Glenn- Send info to Melissa to post on website and Facebook on the Northern Chester County Coalition.

- 4) The Group- Reach out to personal contacts for future guest speakers.
- 5) The Group- Place Shredding Event posters around community
- 6) Linda- Provide Library Grant Info to Donna for the Newsletter.
- 7) Glenn- Provide Honey I Shrunk the Yard summary to Donna for the newsletter.
- 8) John- Provide PACEA info to Donna for the newsletter.
- 9) Bryan- Provide Road Clean-up summary to Donna for the newsletter.
- 10) The Group- Provide any community member that you think would be an asset for our community outreach program with the PACEA.
- 11) The Group- Brainstorm for fun ideas at the Library meetings.
- 12) Glenn- Send the Library seminar schedule to your network.
- 13) Someone needs to follow up with Just Joe's Coffee Shop on the Charging Stations.
- 14) Bryan- Follow up with Sarah on waterway survey questions.