West Pikeland Township

Environmental Advisory Council

2/7/2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Linda Reichart, Rich Pomeroy, Kathy Hughes, Glenn Wenger and John Matthews. Public attendance: Carin Misfud

1. Call to order: 7:34 PM
2. Agenda was approved
3. Minutes from January 10, 2022 were approved.
4. Public Comment: Carin Misfud- Get the Minutes from previous meetings to Amy Fulton, WPT Secretary. There was a lengthy WPT BOS meeting on February 6, 2023. PennDOT is looking for bids from property owners along the Tollway to dump fill from their construction project. The WPT lot has trees, which will need to be removed (not a bad thing if they are Ash trees). Once they are finished dumping their fill, it will be covered with topsoil and can be replanted. Feb. 15th WPT will know if they won their bid.
5. Old Business
6. Possible collaboration with WPT Land Trust and the 50+ acre parcel- Janet: Mike Minnich did not show. Carin Misfud said that there is farmable land on the property and bids have already been requested from interested parties to farm it. Will need to schedule a walk through the property including representatives from WPT BOS, Parks and Rec and EAC to get the lay of the land.
7. VPP Grant Update- John and Bryan: Both John and Bryan were at a VPP meeting with representatives from Schuylkill and East Pikeland Townships to discuss and plan the Stakeholders meeting, which will occur on March 1, 2023 at 5:30 PM. Goal is to have 10 people per township (residents, HOA presidents, business owners, high school students, etc) to attend the meeting. Bryan will send out to the designated stakeholders the WPT Plan, which is based on the recommendations from the consultant, Practical Energy Solutions. At the Stakeholders meeting on March 1st there will be breakout sessions to discuss the municipality being the role model and then spread the word to the community via the stakeholders. If there is no response from the emailed letter to potential stakeholders, then they will be called. The commitment is one meeting for 90 minutes.
8. Renewable Energy presentation by Rachel Griffith- Linda: Linda has been emailing back and forth with Rachel. Would like her to present on renewable energy to the residents of WPT. Linda will suggest that the presentation will show how renewable energy at the local level fits into the Chester County Plan. WVT has also looked into a presentation for their residents with Rachel. We should collaborate with WVT for this meeting. Linda will contact Donna Delaney at WVT to set this up. It was suggested that we also invite a local climate change educator trained by Penn State to give a science perspective. If there is time, Bryan will present on how the IRA fits in with renewable energy. The meeting with take place at Pine Creek Park or via ZOOM (will be decided at a later date) on June 1st.
9. Bird Conservation presentation-Janet: She has not made contact with Holly Merker yet. John mentioned that there will be a presentation sponsored by French and Pickering Creek on Chickadees at HYS on February 16th at 7:00 PM.
10. EAC Trail Walk- Rich: WPT EAC Ordinance says that our council should walk through lands owned by WPT and to advise on uses and improvements of said properties. It was proposed that we add to our agenda to walk one of the properties once a month to check out a parcel of land. Carin is working on a map that will designate easements, property access, conservation and preservation on WPT owned properties. We will need to first let Carin know which property we would like to walk so she can give us the above information on the parcel.
11. WPT Sustainability Festival- Bryan and Mike Leader: Will skip since Mike could not make it to the meeting.
12. Invasive Removal at HYS- John: HYS has a new director (do not know his name yet but he is from Goggleworks in Reading). We would like to pursue the Homegrown National Park with HYS. Present the concept to the new director, show him an example, press him to join and HYS could be a role model for the community. WVT has a Homegrown National Park program for its residents. To participate the criteria to follow is have a pollinator garden, place for feeding birds, native plants and no pesticides. It is based on an honor system. If they participate they get a beautiful sign for their yard- the sign has been an incentive to join- they really want the sign.
13. New Business:
14. Paper Shredding Event: Will defer to next year. Will apply the $600.00 that would be used for this event towards the maintenance of the planted trees at Pine Creek Park.
15. Spring Tree Planting Maintenance- Bryan: The planted shrubs a Pine Creek Park need to have their tubes replaced with cages. Sarah researched and proposed a budget of $2000.00, which $900.00 would go towards the two wooden stakes per cage. Harold Hallman is looking into a less expensive option for the stakes. It was proposed to do half of them this year. Bryan wants to go ahead with the caging. We need to be good stewards for the shrubs/trees we already planted.
16. Next meeting is March. 7, 2023
17. Adjourn 8:30 PM

Action Items:

1. Bryan- Send out plan to the interested stakeholders (VPP Grant).
2. Linda- Contact Donna Delaney at WVT to possibly collaborate on the Rachel Griffith seminar.