

West Pikeland Township

Environmental Advisory Council

3/7/2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: Bryan Maher, Sarah Newman, Janet Parry (via phone), Linda Reichart, Rich Pomeroy, Kathy Hughes, Glenn Wenger and John Matthews. Public attendance: Mike Minnich and Mike Leader

- 1) Call to order: 7:32 PM
- 2) Agenda was approved
- 3) Minutes from March 7, 2023 were approved.
- 4) Public Comment: Sarah Newman- There is a proposal for the development of 200 acres in Uchlan Township into a 1.9 million sq. ft. business complex most likely an Amazon warehouse distribution site designated as the Lionville Trade Center. DASH currently owns the 2 parcels, which make up approximately 200 acres. The parcels are located on Lionville Station Rd behind MilkyWay Farm and are zoned commercial. The plans for the complex were recently submitted to the township so there is very little information at this point (i.e. plans for buffers around the property, flood mitigation, etc.). Carin Mifsud attended the Uchlan Township Planning Commission meeting on March 1, 2023 when the proposal was presented. WPT BOS plan to fight the proposal. Environmental non profits are already involved.
- 5) Old Business
  - a) Possible collaboration with WPT Land Trust and the 50+ acre parcel- Janet: Mike Minnich talked about the following: The Dietrich Foundation donated 65 acres to WPT. It's almost totally wooded- very little open land for farming. The Foundation has conditions so they will have to be consulted before any farming can take place. There is very little access to the parcel so that is probably why it was never developed. Mike would like to make hiking trails throughout the parcel, but it is very overgrown and as mentioned before, access is limited. There are three possible access points- 1) Off of Parker Hill Rd. there is a 10-20 ft wide access strip. 2) There is Open Space off the end of Dunsinane Rd that abuts the property. 3) May have access off of Art School Rd across from the Church close to Horseshoe Trail. Barbara Kelley would like to use grant money she has obtained to help with the development of the trails. She would like to assess the Open Space we already have to connect or maybe use the money to purchase land adjacent for parking and access. Barbara has put together a Task Force (Sarah and Janet are on the Task Force) to assess WPT Open Space. Rick Trails is a Natural Lands consultant who will be involved with the Task Force. Mike was not sure where Carin is referring to farmable land- maybe along Walnut Lane?
  - b) VPP Grant Stakeholder Meeting Recap - John and Bryan: Report on the March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 meeting. WPT BOS attendees were Carin and Harold. Overall a very good conservation among the breakout groups and general audience. Handouts from the meeting were excellent- Introduction to factual info for energy alternatives. John will have Amy print out the handouts for our library information kiosk. There will be a meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> (John and Bryan will attend) with the other two township representatives to discuss the meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike Leader proposed that energy conservation is addressed- simple concepts with effective solutions. Start with energy conservation within the township then transition to renewable energy. There are many ways we can address energy use. The grant was used effectively for the Municipality buildings. We now need to relay the information to WPT residents.
  - c) Renewable Energy presentation by Rachel Griffith- Linda: Linda will meet with Rachel on March 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss concrete ideas/topics for her seminar. It will be an in person presentation at Pine Creek

Park. Would like her to cover Renewable energy, sustainability/conservation practices, etc. Bryan will cover IRA information- do it all for less.

- d) Bird Conservation presentation-Janet: Still waiting for Janet to make contact with Holly. On the topic of birds Linda brought up an initiative from the Audubon Society for the Dark Skies Program starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. From midnight to 6 AM keep lights out in and around all buildings, parking lots and homes. Over 10,000 birds die every night due to smashing into objects (mainly windows) associated with lights on at night. Would like to make it a county wide ordinance. Linda will give a copy of the article to Amy to put on the website. Kathy will make a poster "Dark Skies for the Birds" for the post office, library, WPT building, Hallman's, etc. John will see if we can to put a message on the HYS sign across from Hallman's. Kathy will see if we could use the old Stickman Brews sign to post a message too.
  - e) EAC Trail Walk- Choose a spot: Walk the Disc Golf Course at Pine Creek Park, Sunday, March 19 at 10:00 AM. Need to look at where the property lines are located. The course is right over the tree plantings. Now is the time to give our input on our concerns about the impact on the tree plantings. The marshy area for the course was cleared. It was suggested that the area should be planted with native shrubs.
  - f) WPT Sustainability Festival- Bryan and Mike Leader: Mike suggested (after the success of the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting) that the Festival should focus on a citizen to citizen event rather than vendors selling their wares. It would promote connecting neighbors. Tours of homes with solar panels, heat pumps, geothermal, etc. Have the event in the Fall to plan and market it. Would like it to be similar to the Holiday Stroll on Art School Rd. thru HYS. Already has parking. Residents will set up a booth with their info and have small businesses (arts and crafts, massage therapist, food, etc) represented. West Pikeland Fall Festival with also music/food and beer booths. Bryan will need help with the committee (Sarah and Glenn volunteered on the spot). Planning on \$1000.00 budget (most likely will go to the band). Will need approval from the BOS. Also have to check with HYS on a day that would not interfere with their weddings. Looking at sometime in October. Bryan will send out an Email on more planning on this event.
  - g) Art School Road pond update: Still in litigations with WPT and owners. Carin will let us know if there are any new information.
- 6) New Business:
- a) Highway Cleanup date: April 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – noon. Meet at Pickering Shoppes (corner of Yellow Spring Road and 401).
  - b) New Public Works Building at Walnut Park Heating: WPT decided on gas heat and no heat pump. WPT EAC as a whole was not consulted. It was suggested they look into geothermal and WPT decided it was too expensive so they went with gas heat. Also, EV charging stations were brought up with the BOS and it was claimed that there is not enough energy supply in the township to make work. John will follow up and look into the WPT energy supply. The VPP Grant recommendations included municipal EV vehicles and charging stations. WPT BOS already approved The Phoenixville Regional Plan. Need to look to see what we need to follow according PRP. The consultant from the VPP Grant is done at the end of April. Need to get info from the consultant and give to the WPT BOS on our energy supply assessment for EV charging stations ASAP. Will have to get information from PECO.
  - c) Next WPT EAC Newsletter: So far we can include the 2 events, IRA information, Invasive Praying Mantis information, Dark Skies for the Birds.
- 7) Next meeting is April 4, 2023
- 8) Adjourn 8:38 PM

#### Action Items:

- 1) John- Give articles from the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to Amy so she can print them out for the library.

- 2) Linda- Give Dark Skies for the Birds article to Amy so she can put on website and make copies to post in the library.
- 3) John- Check with HYS to see if we can put up information on their sign across from Hallman's about the Dark Skies for the Birds
- 4) Kathy- Will check to see if we can put the information on Dark Skies for the Birds on the old Stickman's sign.
- 5) Bryan- Check with HYS about date for the Fall Festival.
- 6) Bryan- Send out email for planning the Fall Festival.
- 7) John- Follow up the Energy Supply for EV Stations in WPT.
- 8) Janet- Contact Holly for a Fall presentation on birds.