

West Pikeland Township
Environmental Advisory Council

9/14/2021 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: John Matthews, Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Glenn Wenger, Donna Switzer, Rich Pomeroy and Linda Reichert.

- 1) Call to order: 7:32 PM
- 2) Agenda was approved
- 3) Minutes from August 3, 2021 were approved.
- 4) John Matthews went to West Chester College to see a presentation by Douglas Tallamy. He is a well known author who focuses on sustaining wildlife with native plants. At the presentation he talked about how the whole world is ½ agriculture and the other half is related to people. He emphasized that it is critical that we get back in balance with nature. He proposed how we can restore earth back to ½ nature. To do this, we all turn ½ of our individual areas (i.e. backyards, areas adjacent to runways, etc.) back to native plants to attract wildlife. He recommends that if you plant a tree, plant an oak tree- in reference to one of his books. John will recommend to Nancy at the library to purchase Mr. Tallamy's books. It was brought to the groups' attention that in Phoenixville there is a Green Earth Festival. Can find the information on the Colonial Theatre's website.
- 5) Old business.
 - a) EAC Initiatives Internal Audit Discussion: It was brought up at the last meeting that our council is moving away from an advisory role to activism in our community. Linda read our mission statement. It was voted on and approved by the council to amend the mission statement to include educating the residents of WPT on issues that are environmentally focused. Need to have the amendment approved by the BOS. It was suggested that we focus on the available science on an issue and educate from that perspective. For example, do we have toxic pesticides in WPT water/soil? We can consult Green Valley to find out if this is in issue with WPT waterways. When a new topic is brought up before our council, we should take the time to research it before we "jump in." Glenn will find a speaker who can address the pros and cons of pesticide use.
 - b) Chester Springs Library Grant third event Recap: Linda- Guest speakers, Paula Kline and Jess Cadorette, were excellent on informing the public about energy use and its impact on the environment. None of the WPT BOS attended the events. She had excellent banners addressing the different aspects on energy alternatives. John would like to get a hold of the banners to display them at a WPT BOS meeting. The BOS mandated that our council educate the WPT community on energy alternatives because of the councils' involvement with the Comprehensive Plan. We did this via the library outreach program.
 - c) PACEA update: Bryan and John- One consultant submitted a proposal and it was a great. WPT BOS need to approve this to get the project moving forward. A synopsis of the program with the Library is needed. WPT EAC voted to approve the Clean Energy Promotion Plan. Linda will edit Glenn's resolution and then ask the WPT BOS approval. Need to have as many of us attend the Oct. 4th BOS meeting.
 - d) Tree planting at Pine Creek Park: Sarah- No updates. Cannot do this right now until we involve the WPT Parks and Rec. To do this, Sarah needs to get more info before we can approach P and R. Look into Grants to plan and fund the project. There is Maida's garden at Pine Creek Park- can build and improve the already existing garden. PECO is a possible grant source. Glenn will contact Sarah with that information.

- e) Adopt a highway program: Bryan- The adoption of 113 section has been approved by PENNDOT. We will get a sign by the roadside.
- f) WPT solar ordinance draft: Bryan- Waiting to see what happens with PACEA. Charlie Humphreys would like to host a meeting with solar panel businesses. Also need to work with the WPT Planning Commission. Rich will look into this
- g) ROE presentation: John- Would like to have Jeanne Ortez give a presentation to the WPT Community on the ROE benefits specific to WPT. She needs WPT letter head and photos of Yellow Springs, which we can hopefully get via Yellow Springs Historical Society and WPT. Need a statement on WPT's relationship with birds. John will contact West Vincent for information on their ROE program.

6) New Business:

- a) Fall roadside Cleanup: Mid November, Saturday in the morning.
- 7) Announcements: Green Earth Festivals in Phoenixville and in Philly. Linda will ask Melissa for more copies of the Newsletter for her booth at the Phoenixville festival.
- 8) Adjourn 8:40 PM

Action Items:

- 1) John- Will suggest to Nancy at the library to purchase a couple Tallamy books.
- 2) Glenn- Find a speaker on the pros and cons of pesticide use.
- 3) Linda- Edit Glenn's resolution for the October 4th BOS meetin.
- 4) Glenn- Get information to Sarah about the PECO Grants and tree planting.
- 5) Rich- Look into the Solar Panel Ordinance and how it would involve the WPT Planning commission.
- 6) John- Get information on the West Vincent's ROE plan.