West Pikeland Township

Environmental Advisory Council

7/2/2024 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Mike Leader, Glenn Wenger, Linda Reichert and Sarah Newman. Public: Carin Mifsud

1. Call to order: 7:32 PM
2. Agenda was approved after Autumn Olive Removal added to New Business.
3. Minutes from June 4, 2024 were approved.
4. Public Comment:

**Bryan-** Researched for WPT to find a better (less expensive and hopefully renewable) energy supplier for the township. He found that Smartest Energy Co. both saved a considerable amount of money (lower rates) for the township and supplies exclusively renewable energy. WPT is now 100% renewable energy with our energy supplier. This change further aligns us with the CETP goals! Bryan will write up a blurb for the August WPT Newsletter.

1. Committee Rep. updates:

**Bryan:** BOS- Did not approve the invasive remediation in Pine Creek.

**Glenn**: Open Space- Did not meet.

**Sarah:** Parks and Rec-Disk Golf Course- They will move two holes that are located in the wetlands to the conservation area near the weather station up on the hill. They will plant native shrubs between the new playground and golf holes to prevent the disks from hitting the children.

1. New Business
2. Autumn Olive Removal at Pine Creek Park- Sarah: The olive trees overhang the tree plantings, which will impede the growth of the new trees. The Olive trees are on Natural Lands’ easement property, and they have approved the removal of the trees (via Chris Leonard). The tree removal will involve the coordination between WPT public works staff (Spike Cowan and Anthony Tuski) and volunteers associated with P n R and EAC. A meeting occurred on June 13, 2024 to discuss the project. Representatives from WPT EAC, P n R, Open Space and Public Works were at the meeting. It will be a two step process- first, cut the trees down to stumps and then a herbicide (Triclopyr) will be applied to the stumps in order kill the tree and prevent future sucker growth. Anthony has already significantly cut the trees back. If the BOS approves the project, the trees will be cut back to stumps and Spike will apply the herbicide. Volunteers will be needed to cut the trees to stumps and hall the branches to East Pikeland Township for composting. Spike will need to apply the herbicide within 24 hours of cutting the trees down. The trees will need to be cut before the fruit matures and the trees must be in their growth stage- planning on early Fall for the removal. Sarah is in direct communication with Public Works to coordinate this project (Cut on a Sunday so herbicide can be applied on a Monday). The cost will be 50/50 shared with EAC and P n R. EAC has approved to put up to, but no more than $400.00 toward the purchase of the herbicide. Carin recommended that Sarah use a Google map to show where the trees are located before she turns the project into Joe. The next step after Joe’s input is to present to the BOS.
3. DASD/Lionville Station Farm Meeting Summary- Janet: The purpose of the meeting was to get community input on three potential uses of the land at Lionville Station Farm. They have to sell the land since they will not be needing the land in our end of the district (all the growth is occurring in the southern part of the district) and they want to have all day kindergarten for all the students in the district. They presented three potential uses: Distribution/warehouse (already considered and rejected via community). Flex Industrial (Business Park), which matches current zoning. Active Adult/55+ community, which will require a Uwchlan Township zoning change. There was a breakout session into smaller groups to discuss the three potential uses and give the DASD School Board recommendations. There will be another meeting in the near future to present a proposal for the use of the land.
4. Bamboo Ordinance and Removal- Janet: No grants can be used for the removal of bamboo on private land. Janet talked with a neighbor who has a significant amount of bamboo on their property. They have looked into the cost for the removal and it would cost over $20,000.00 , which is prohibitively expensive for them. They were told that the removal would entail digging down 6 feet to get all the plant and have it hauled away in a dumpster. The ordinance is in place to make sure no one plants anymore bamboo and not to make it mandatory to remove it. Hopefully neighbors can work together and come up with a way to contain the bamboo from infiltrating adjacent properties- trenching is a good method. Sarah suggested that the neighbors contact Chester County Conservation District for the removal of bamboo that is impacting the creeks on their property.
5. Geothermal Sustainable Saturday Recap- Mike: Event occurred on June 22nd. Very good presentation. First time there were more citizens than EAC members- five were from East Pikeland and were very interested in installing geothermal. To address the low turnout, it was suggested to moving the meetings to first quarter of next year (a lot of people on vacation during the summer). May consider paid targeted advertising on Facebook or Next Door. Bryan will ask Joe about budgeting for this type of advertising. This is an important educational exercise to pass onto the WPT residents.
6. Rain Garden/Lawn Conversion Sustainable Saturday on July 20th at 10:00 AM: Sarah and Glenn: They made a lovely handout for the presentation, which Glenn will email to EAC so we can pass the information onto our friends and neighbors. Glenn will present on Lawn Conversion and Sarah will present on Rain Gardens. The participants should plan on 1.5 hours (a short presentation at the library and then visiting their homes to show how the practices work in their gardens). Sarah will advertise this presentation with the Master Water Stewards.
7. Old Business.
8. Jr. EAC Member Update- Sarah: Sarah handed out a proposal (Jr EAC/Associate Member Ordinance Change) for the EAC to review. The document is well organized and comprehensive, however, there should be a section on attendance. It was recommended that Jr.EAC must attend nine meetings throughout the year. Sarah will submit the proposal to Joe for his review and input. All EAC members read the ordinance change handout and reply with any input ASAP. Our objective is to have the plan ready to present to BOS in August. If approved, Sarah will put together an application and distribute to the appropriate organizations. WPT will pay for the “working with youth” clearances. We will not need to have clearances for the monthly meetings/presentations.
9. Pine Creek Park Invasive Remediation plan update- Glenn: BOS did not approve the plan at the last meeting. They needed more information (answers to 3 questions). Glenn will get the information to Joe and have the item put on the BOS July 15th agenda.
10. Topic for WPT Next Newsletter- Bryan: Announce the new renewable energy supplier for WPT buildings.
11. Tip of the Day for next WPT Newsletter- Bryan: Save the date for the HYS Festival on October 20.
12. Solar Ordinance Request- Bryan: Will present at next meeting. Need to coordinate with surrounding townships.
13. Announcements: Next meeting is August 6, 2024 at 7:30.
14. Adjourn: 8:33 PM

Action Items:

1. Sarah- Make a Google map of the Autumn Olive location to give to Joe and include in the document.
2. Bryan- Ask Joe about targeted paid advertising to promote future EAC presentations.
3. Glenn- Email the Sustainable Saturday Lawn Conversion and Rain Garden Handout to EAC members ASAP.
4. Sarah-Send the Sustainable Saturday Lawn Conversion and Rain Garden Handout to Master Water Stewards.
5. **All EAC Members**- Read over the Jr. EAC Ordinance and give feedback to Sarah ASAP.
6. Bryan- Topic for Newsletter- Give a Report on the new renewable energy supplier for WPT buildings.
7. Bryan- Write up Tip of the Month- Save the date for HYS Fall Festival.