



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 12, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

I. CALL TO ORDER

EAC members: Erica Burman, Walt Cressler, Ron Joines, Maggie Killcoyne, Robin Lasersohn, Dana Marks, Ian Piro

Associate Members: David Director

Mark Paikoff, Borough Council Liaison; Karen Taussig-Lux, Grants Administrator

Present: All EAC members present

Absent: None

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

- Approval of December minutes - approved
- Welcome to Ron Joines & Dana Marks
- Status of Associate Members (David Director) - Borough Council will vote on his appointment at the next meeting.
- Subcommittee assignments
 - Energy – Ian*, Karen, Dana, Erica
 - Zero Waste – Erica*, Karen, Maggie, David
 - Transportation, including EV – Robin*, Dana, David
 - Land and Water – Walt*, Robin, Ron
 - Education and Outreach – Maggie*, Walt, Ian, Ron
- Annual report – everyone is ok with it.

III. ENERGY

- Community Choice Aggregation (“CCA”) Presentation – Dennis Rowan
 - Dennis Rowan, Baird Brown, and Mike Gordon presented the CCA program.
 - Goals – community empowerment enabled through Borough Code, climate action by moving away from fossil fuels, gaining market power by leveraging

- collective demand and keeping the benefit local.
- Objective – Utilize PA Borough authority to create a CCA to develop and procure more renewable power and stabilize prices for residents and local businesses.
- Strategy-
 - Work with Pennsylvania communities that have renewable energy goals.
 - Analyze CCA legislative, borough statute & regulatory pathways.
 - Parallel outreach to PA regulators and utilities.
 - Education and outreach to PA Boroughs and Townships.
 - Build a repository of best practices in investigating CCA.
 - Establish best practices in adopting CCA.
- The CCA would be the default offering:
 - Eligible residents are enrolled unless they opt out.
 - Replaces the existing default supply.
 - Offerings are selected through competitive bid.
 - No penalty for opting out; adds consumer choice.
 - Residents can continue to use their own solar panels.
- [Joule Community Power](#) is the only CCA Administrator in the nation to bring community solar, on an opt-out basis, to entire communities. Joule is bringing the CCA blueprint to source clean energy to Pennsylvania. Joule currently helps 52 municipalities with over 400,000 NY households to provide clean electricity supply and community solar.
- They implemented the CCA in Westchester NY. There is no cost to municipalities, and they saved \$17mm over 30 months. Generally, the savings are between 5% – 10 % savings but cannot be guaranteed.
- New York state saved the following between 2015 – 2022 impacting 150 municipalities representing 3.2 million people passed local laws to enable CCA's, including 1.2 million low- to moderate-income residents:
 - 3 million MWh of renewable energy supply were provided to over 51 towns
 - Avoided over 770,000 Tons of CO2 E.
 - Over 200,000 hours of public education
- Energy distribution, infrastructure maintenance, and billing is the same through PECO.
- Next steps once voted on by EAC:
 - Borough council signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Joule to develop a Borough CCA Implementation Plan.
 - Borough reviews the Implementation Plan and tailors it to meet Borough goals.
 - Joule and Local Organizer review the Implementation Plan with the Utility and PA PUC.
 - Borough issues a Request for Information from electric service providers on the services they would offer.
 - Borough and local Organizers conduct a CCA education campaign with citizens.

Borough Issues an RFP for energy supplier. The RFP includes a draft contract outlining the services written by the Administrator in consultation with the Borough
Borough selects a supplier, approves the final contract, and operations commence.

- EAC approved moving forward with recommending an MOU to Borough Council. Erica will draft it and share it with the Energy committee then the EAC. Swarthmore is also preparing an MOU.
- There is no commitment until the contract is signed with the supplier. Contracts are 3 years but to encourage new renewable energy development, they encourage 5 years. The Borough can opt out at any point at no cost.
- Light Pollution Recommendation Follow Up
 - Locke Sleutaris, who presented at the November EAC meeting, is looking to change the Borough lighting ordinance.
 - Next step, the Energy subcommittee will review that information he provided and as well as the ordinance. The subcommittee will bring proposed changes to the EAC and once approved, to Borough Council.
 - The Education and Outreach subcommittee will work with Locke to create educational material to promote good lighting practices.
- Bryn Mawr College Intern Report Follow Up
 - Karen got the final reports, but the compost analytics report needs to be reworked and one of the students asked to do the follow-up.
 - The reports should be shared with Borough Council, and they will decide next steps.
 - Karen will send reports to EAC.
 - Karen is looking into grant money for EV charging stations.
- Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Update
 - Maggie revisited last summer's work with prior EAC member Addie Ciannella and Julie Smith.
 - Two towns, one in CA and the other in Illinois, put a full gas blower ban in; most other communities only have partial bans allowing gas blowers during busy seasons.
 - Mike Green purchased an electric leaf blower last year based on our recommendation and has purchased more electric blowers and other landscaping equipment but says they are not powerful enough for the Fall.
 - We are reaching out to TTM to get them involved in spreading the word.
 - There is a webinar tonight with the organization that got the ban in place in DC and looking to get it in place in Philly "Quiet Clean".

IV. ZERO WASTE

- Plastic Bag Ordinance Update – Straw Issue
 - A disabled individual was denied a straw at Iron Hill and Wawa.
 - Lori Devlin will communicate to the businesses that you can give a straw on request and are available to disabled people.

- Clarify the policy in the newsletter.
- Reusable Bag Giveaway Report
 - There was great turnout, and EAC gave away about 750 bags.
 - Erica, Dana, and Maggie are also going out this Saturday and Sunday during the Ice on State event.
- Electronic Waste Recycling, Shredding, & Goodwill Event - There will be an event in the spring which the EAC will fund.
- Tour of Recycling Facility - Karen is still looking to get a tour of the Omni facility.
- Composting Program Update
 - The Zero waste subcommittee is looking to expand the program to more homes, schools, HOA's and apartments.
 - Schools need to become more engaged, potentially making composting and recycling part of the curriculum. Some schools have mascots who teach kids about recycling.
 - There is a larger issue with expanding the program. Mike Green says with the current number of residents composting, they are close to 8 hours of mantime. Karen will schedule a meeting with Mike, Brittany, Mark, and herself to discuss a solution.

V. TRANSPORTATION

- Status of "Day Without a Car" Event - There were several meetings last year, but the actual event was pushed to 2023.

VI. LAND & WATER

- Hybrid Based Code and Stormwater Update
 - Katie Friesen will revisit the possibility of instituting an Environmental Review Board for addressing certain stormwater issues in place of determinations by the Zoning Commission until after the Hybrid Based Code is in place. She faced some resistance in making such multiple changes at once.
 - Control and uncontrolled surfaces are still the big issue, and they will give the feedback to the consultants.
 - The Hybrid Based Zoning is on the Borough Council agenda next week.
- Bee City USA/Pollinator Garden Update – Mosquito Spraying
 - Julie Smith, a resident and member of the Shade Tree Commission and the Media Tree Tenders, wants to urgently address the adverse effects to neighbors of residents spraying for mosquitos. The Land & Water Subcommittee will partner with her to explore legal and educational approaches.
- Stormwater Improvements for Ridge Road
 - Applied for a \$1mm grant in ARPA funding from the PA H2O Program to help cover the increasing costs.

VII. EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- We Conserve PA is looking for new members (cost of \$260). It will be less expensive to

attend the events as members. Karen will send a link to the website. EAC will vote on whether to join next month after reviewing the benefits.

The Next Meeting Will Be Held on February 9, 2023 – 7:00 PM