



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 9, 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: Walt Cressler, Erica Burman, Maggie Killcoyne, Robin Lasersohn, Dana Marks, David Director, Karen Taussig-Lux, and Mark Paikoff

Absent: Ian Piro and Ron Joines

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

- Approval of January minutes - approved
- Official welcome to Associate Member David Director
- Introduction to Lamisa Houssain – the Bryn Mawr College student will complete the composting work already started by the team in the fall as well as work on other projects.
- Using “Signal” for internal communications - Dana brought up using “Signal” app to communicate with each other. The group is not ready to make the switch.

III. ENERGY

- Community Choice Aggregation Recommendation Status
 - Mark brought the recommendation up at the Borough Council and received positive feedback but with a full agenda, they won't be able to explore fully until at least April.
- Light Pollution Recommendation Follow Up
 - Locke will draft a piece for the newsletter.
 - The Energy subcommittee will review the current ordinance and propose recommended changes.

IV. ZERO WASTE

- Plastic Bag Ordinance Update
 - The Ordinance requires businesses to post signs about the plastic bag and straw ban. The signs will have a QR code with a link to the Borough website which includes resources and vendors. Lori Devlin will distribute the signs to the businesses.
 - The signs will refine communications around straw ban based on feedback received.
 - Dave Fairman thought handing out bags was great at the events on State Street. He will assist with distributing bags to businesses.
- Composting Program Update
 - The Borough will launch a composting campaign in March including releasing the second compost video.
 - Public works is at capacity at this point. While they can handle adding more residents to the program, expanding to apartments is not feasible.
 - One solution would be moving to once-a-week trash pickup which has a lot of downstream impacts. The Zero Waste subcommittee will investigate the issue.
 - Mark thinks the EAC needs a 5-year plan, like what Brittany does for the Borough.
- Zero Waste Presentation, DCIS, 4/17, 7:30 p.m.
 - The presentation will be hosted by TTM and Erica, Karen and Faran Savitz, among others, are on the panel.
 - In addition, Sari Stueber and Skip Shuda from TTM, will present a seminar on Transition Towns at WCU on March 1st at noon and it will be recorded.
- Omni MRF Tour
 - Karen spoke with the new owner of Omni who has worked at the company for 16 years and he recently bought the company out.
 - He is open to giving us a tour of the facility and Karen will arrange.
 - Omni only has a market for number 1 and 2 plastics – the Borough website will need to be updated.
 - Karen is waiting to hear about the Borough’s DEP 902 grant application, which would hire a consultant to help the Borough contract separately with the recycling hauler and a recycling facility.
- Electronic Waste Recycling, Shredding, & Goodwill Event
 - March 11th, 9 am to 1 pm at 101 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA (“Summit School/Gouley Park” site)

V. TRANSPORTATION

- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Update
 - The subcommittee reviewed the Bryn Mawr students’ recommendations and brainstormed about next steps:
 - The timetable to replace existing Borough fleet vehicles is adequate.
 - The police department expressed concerns about police cars' performance when in pursuit. The group investigated other communities using electric vehicles. The other communities had

satisfactory results – we should recommend a pilot program with the department to eliminate any misperceptions. And as time goes on, the technology will continue to improve.

The subcommittee also discussed the police using electric bikes.

The purchase of electric vehicles for the Code Enforcement group is not in this year's budget but Public Works budget includes a Ford 150 truck and charger.

The group is also looking into electric larger vehicles. Snow plowing is the biggest issue when the snow is heavy. One solution could be to contract it out. One concern of Public Works is charging EVs during a prolonged power outage and then not having them available for emergency work. There are grants for medium and large EV trucks but at the present they are only for replacing diesel trucks.

Idling police cars: police say they need to keep cars idling in order to keep computers powered. "Sleathpower" provides idle mitigation for emergency vehicles. The technology saves money on gas and serves the computer needs.

An EV structure in the community needs to be developed. The Borough should seek funds and a plan to install stations. The team is looking into what Swarthmore Borough is doing. The garage at Olive and Baltimore Pike has the wiring to support charging stations. Karen to write a memo to Borough Council requesting they pursue potential grants for EV's— approved unanimously.

The Borough might want to pursue a multi municipal micro transportation plan. VIA transportation is a one stop shop for public transportation. It uses an app like UBER. SEPTA is looking into it, but they don't want the Borough in the pilot. CCT connect, which serves people with mobility issues, would also move to an on demand program. We need to encourage people to take public transportation. Some ideas circulated were a micro shuttle to Springfield mall and other places, car free zones, car share programs and potential ordinance changes to limit cars at new developments.

VI. LAND & WATER

- Mosquito Spraying Mitigation Update
 - Julie Smith discussed the issue and approach.
 - The Borough cannot ban spraying for mosquitos, it must come from the state. There is a state level preemption of local ordinances that would ban such pesticides. The Land and Water subcommittee is investigating a framework where people cannot spray if it impacts other people's yards.
 - Julie going to court in Harrisburg in March/April over neighbors use of insecticides.
 - Education of residents is important. Bee City will include a write-up in the next newsletter as well as a table at the Jasper Street Jams.

- Garden Tour Update
 - 5/20, TTM is organizing and in the process of picking out gardens
- “Ask an Arborist” event, Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m., Community Center - The Shade Tree commission hosting.
- Jefferson Street Stormwater Project – updates to follow.

VII. EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- WeConservePA Membership
 - Approved annual membership donation of \$260.
- EAC Network Conference, Sat. Feb. 25, 9am-3:30pm,
<https://weconservepa.org/event/eac-network-conference/>
- New Borough Website
 - Council members should review the content and the Education subcommittee will work through the updates potentially with the help of Linda.

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