

*Lower Gwynedd Township*

**Environmental Advisory Committee**

***Meeting Minutes***

***August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024***

**Members in Attendance:**

Mark Schafer, Chair

Brenda Doll (via zoom)

Rea Monaghan, Vice Chair

Lisa Brown

Maureen Nunn

Marianne Grey

**Associate Members:** Rich Valiga, Suzanne Smith-Osciliski, Steve Saffier

**Board Of Supervisors Liaison:** Tessie McNeely

**Staff in Attendance:** Sandi Feight

1. **Call to Order, attendance, introductions of new members, participants or visitors.**
2. **Approval of prior minutes (attached)** – Approved.
3. **Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda, and any other items to be considered as party of the Regular Agenda**
4. **Approval of Regular Agenda** – Approved.
5. **Consent agenda:** June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes
6. **Single Use Plastic Ban Presentation** – Faran Savitz, Penn Environment joined the meeting via Zoom. Farren presented the pros and challenges for Single Use Plastics bans in relation to the environment and communities. He did note community businesses, including restaurants who have expressed concerns about the banning because they worry, they do not have other options for takeout, non-plastic, non-Styrofoam food containers are difficult and hard to find and expensive. Farren presented possible options municipalities to for businesses who have concerns about other options. EAC members had a variety of questions and Farren was able to answer. The EAC will take all the information presented into consideration.
7. **Old Business**
  - a. EAC Program Planning Handbook Update – Lisa has created a format for all programming. Maureen has sent all her Going Green information to Sandi. Rea has been working on the draft document for the Tree Giveaway. She is also working on the battery and techno trash recycling document and the rain barrel giveaway and composting event. Steve will be completing the bird town document. Rea thinks they will have it done sooner than expected.
  - b. By Laws – Update on the Review – Sandi attached a copy of the bylaws to SharePoint and Rea has been reviewing them.

## **8. New Business**

- a. Lower Gwynedd Fall Fest 9/21 - call for volunteers – Sandi let the EAC know that there will be one table for all the Township committees and boards. Brenda asked about their trifold information board and being able to use it. Sandi is hoping they can, but she still must go out and measure and figure out the logistics.
- b. Whitpain Township Community Festival 9/28 - call for volunteers – Mark will email and thank them, but no one is able to make it the EAC has many events happening in September into October to cover with volunteers.
- c. Tree Giveaway – Call for volunteers – We will have enough volunteers.

## **9. Standing Items – Committee and Liaison updates**

- a. Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison – John & Sandi have met with DCNR and looking at the Woodland evaluation and with Gilmore and their arborists to go out and start evaluating the areas with hazards. They have given us ideas.
- b. Planning Commission Liaison – Proposed update to the small wireless facilities ordinance, meaning the cell phone towers in the township.
- c. LGT Comprehensive Plan Liaison – Meeting was on 7/22. The topic was Historic Preservation. The Steering Committee was updated on the historical aspect of the Township. There were maps updated. The open house date was set for Monday 10/28 4-6 pm. Members of the Steering Committee & the Montgomery County Planning Commission will be present. All relevant questions were answered and will be presented at the meeting.

## **10. Points of Interest/General comments –**

- a. CCA update – Bill Sabia from Plymouth Township EAC presented to the BOS on 7/28. There was a discussion about the capability the boroughs must consolidate their energy and provide clean energy rather than go through PECO or whatever the supplier is. You would still have to pay for the transmission of the energy through PECO but use clean energy. The BOS was concerned because they feel they didn't have enough time to review, and they are not included in this and cannot contract like boroughs can. They felt it was not in the best interest to move forward.
- b. Other meetings of interest – Noise ordinance discussion about leaf blowers from June meeting would be a police & code responsibility.

- c. Brenda let everyone know that the Whitpain EAC will be talking at their BOS meetings about the plastic ban if anyone is interested and will send an email about the dates and times-8/20 & 9/3.
- d. Volunteer Appreciation Night is 10/24.
- e. Paige told everyone that Journeywork is doing Pollinator Palooza again and asked the EAC to tell everyone about this and that if the EAC wanted to provide kits to Lower Gwynedd Residents, they would be \$75 a garden. Registration will open in September, and it will stay open for 6 weeks. EAC voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors 10 gardens for the first 10 residents who register. Sandi will put together a letter of recommendation for the BOS.

Meeting concluded: 8:40 PM

Next Meeting: September 11<sup>th</sup> , 2024