



Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council

Chair: Keith Peters



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MEETING MINUTES Tuesday January 11th, 2011

The regular meeting of the Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held on Tuesday, January 11th, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building, 425 Wells Road in Doylestown. In attendance: Ethan Prout, Shawn Touhill, Don Richardson, and Keith Peters. Board of Supervisors Members: E. Thomas Scarborough. Staff Liaison: Sandra B. Zadell and Intern Karen Thompson.

The committee reviewed the December 2010 meeting minutes. On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Prout the meeting minutes were approved with small grammatical amendments.

The committee discussed the annual report which will be given by Mr. Feldman to the Board of Supervisors at their 1st meeting in February. Mr. Prout will serve as his back up.

The committee discussed the outdoor wood burner ordinance recently regulated and released by the state. Mr. Feldman sent the regulations to Mrs. Zadell. She will email them to the rest of the committee. Mr. Touhill suggested that our ordinance at least model a minimum lot size and setbacks and chimney heights. Mr. Prout mentioned that Mr. Feldman will take a look at Title 5 regulations as well. Mr. Peters will create a draft ordinance for the February Meeting.

The committee discussed the native plants ordinance. The ordinance that they are thinking of creating will encourage the use of native plants in the parks system and on all township properties. The committee discussed whether or not we should create an ordinance or a resolution on this topic. Mrs. Zadell will check with Ms. Mason to see what she recommends. Mr. Peters will have a draft of a resolution for the February Meeting.

The committee received a telephone presentation from Steven Deasy at Gannett Fleming. He discussed different options for SWANA funding to help with the discussion of a single trash hauler in Doylestown Township. He stated that Gannett Fleming would be able to help draft a survey and do a study on a single hauler trash system in the Township. He said that his company helped Chalfont borough do a similar study and that report can be reviewed online. He stated it is a good idea to also educate the township internally (through a survey) so that Board members will be comfortable in knowing where the community stands on the issue. The EAC expressed concerns that this topic was raised 10 years ago and residents did not support a single hauler system. Mr. Deasy stated that a lot has changed in the past 10 years, waste hauling costs have escalated as well as prices, people have a more "green" attitude and also recycling technology has changed. Mr. Deasy also mentioned that an approach which may help get SWANA funding is our fresh idea to help residents finance the \$120 tax increase, by reducing their waste collection costs. Mr. Deasy recommended using Survey Monkey to help get a good response rate on our survey, and also including it in the township newsletter. The SWANA funding will not help pay for the survey but will help pay for consulting fees. The committee also discussed billing ideas with Mr. Deasy, and stated that they would prefer if the bills are paid directly to the trash hauler. The EAC outlined their concerns with a single hauler system are:

1. Lack of choice
2. Billing issues
3. Reduced collections (from 2 x per week to 1 x per week)

Mr. Deasy stated that the state has mandated trash collection, which makes trash collection the responsibility of government. This is a health, safety and welfare issue and not something that should be handled by private sector companies, with no government input. It is like any other utility.

The EAC and Mr. Deasy concluded their call and the committee requested that Mrs. Zadell circulate all of the information she has on the Chalfont Study, their survey and report. The EAC will further discuss this issue in February, with the end goal being to go before the Board of Supervisors with a survey for their approval.

The EAC discussed Arbor Day and stated that they would like to use only native plants in this planting. It will be at the Game Grove in Central Park. Mrs. Zadell will speak with Mr. John about his plans for this planting.

The EAC discussed the North Wales Water Authority Videos. On a motion made by Mr. Prout seconded by Mr. Richardson the two videos were approved for airing on the EAC Hour. Mrs. Zadell will forward these videos to the TAB board and Ms. Mason for their approval to air.

Mr. Peters reported that there hasn't been any new information from PA Greenways. Ms. Thompson mentioned that she worked on this project as a surveyor and that the new title of the project is Keep PA Beautiful. She suggested one thing she learned from working for them is that illegal dumping of yard waste has been a major issue. One suggestion is to help educate residents to require receipts from their landscaping companies on where they are dumping the waste. This would be a good educational campaign for our TV station, newsletter and website.

Mrs. Zadell reported that the Township does not have copies of the original Lukoil spill information. The EAC would like the township to have them and requested she get them for the February Meeting.

The EAC reviewed ideas for the summer 2010 newsletter. Mrs. Zadell reported the deadline for articles is April 10th. Mr. Peters asked Mrs. Zadell to contact Mr. Hendricks the township Ornithologist to write an article on the new screech owl boxes. They will also have Ms. Thompson write an article for the newsletter on the yard waste receipts issue, and Mr. Peters will put together an article on Pristine Lawns.

The EAC discussed the EAC summit and decided they would like to host it again this May, if Doylestown Borough or Warminster aren't interested in hosting it. Mr. Peters will contact those municipalities and asked Mrs. Zadell to get the invite list updated and include Doylestown Borough.

The committee reviewed the request from the PA Environmental Council to renew our annual membership. On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Prout the committee voted to approve spending \$50 to maintain their membership. Mrs. Zadell will renew the membership this month.

The committee adjourned at 8:10 pm.