

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2012

In Attendance: Chairman: Keith Peters; Committee Members: Sean Sablosky, Don Richardson, Bill Lloyd, Jeff Fehr; Board of Supervisors Liaison: Thomas Scarborough; Staff Liaison: Sandra Zadell.

Resident Visitor: Jeanine Mitchell

On a motion made by Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Mr. Sablosky the minutes from November 13, 2012 were approved.

There were no plans to review at this meeting.

Mr. Peters gave an update on the Birdtown Demonstration Garden; he stated that he and Ray Hendrick will meet at the Township Building tomorrow.

Ms. Mitchell reviewed her memo that she had created regarding Birdtown and also reported on the Birdtown Summit that she attended. She submitted the information that she collected at summit to the EAC. Mrs. Zadell will forward that information to Mr. Hendrick and email the information to the EAC.

Ms. Mitchell stated that there is a Montgomery County Birdtown Coalition; she feels that it would be a good idea to have a Buck County Birdtown Coalition.

The committee discussed bluebird houses and bird walks as an option for a spring event. Mrs. Zadell mentioned that for a spring event it would be best to get the information into the Township Newsletter and Program Guide. The deadline for a spring event has passed however the summer newsletter will be going out to residents at the end of May. Although bird migration is in the spring, it would be best to schedule something for after May so it could be advertised.

Mr. Peters, Mr. Hendricks and Ms. Mitchell will meet to make Ms. Mitchell's memo more specific, it will be reviewed at the next EAC meeting. It will be sent to the Park & Rec Board when it's completed.

Mr. Sablosky brought up fundraising and the potential to fund raise to cover the cost of Birdtown by selling advertisements on the bluebird houses. Mrs. Zadell stated that the Township has a long history of fundraising but plans must be in place before fundraising begins. The EAC cannot independently fundraise for signs that would be put in the park, if signs are to be put in the park they must go to the Park & Rec Board and the Board of Supervisors; the EAC would need to have an organized fundraising plan in place.

Mrs. Zadell stated that she would send to Mr. Sablosky example fundraising plans from the Bike & Hike Committee, Memorial Committee and Friends of Doylestown Dog Park Committee.

Mr. Lloyd mentioned that it might be a good idea to have Birdtown as one of the topics at the EAC Summit.

The committee then discussed the Trash Study. Mr. Peters asked if we should proceed or not, will we be putting together an RFP, how the committee would like to handle this item.

The committee discussed the merits of the trash report and some of the committee members expressed concerns.

Mr. Fehr is concerned about several items in the report; mainly he feels that the report lacks clarity in the research. He also has concerns about the recycling rate and pricing claims. Mr. Fehr suggested that the EAC create a memo with the EAC's position regarding the report and it give to the Board of Supervisors along with the report.

Mr. Sablosky raised concerns about free market enterprise and stated that he feels that allowing a single trash hauler is considered a monopoly. He also suggested a memo stating that we make the changes recommended in this report through stronger ordinance revision instead of going with a single hauler trash system.

Mrs. Zadell explained the difference between the control that the township currently has on trash companies under our ordinance versus the control that we could possibly have with companies in a contract situation. In a contract situation since the company is in a contract with the township we actually have more control over their business practices than we currently do under our ordinance.

Mr. Richardson stated that he feels that the EAC should go one step at a time, send the memo on the report to the Board of Supervisors and see what they think.

Mr. Fehr stated that he doesn't think that the report is convincing enough at this point to send to the Board of Supervisors and he would like to ask other municipalities about their experiences with the single hauler system. He wants know if they experienced cost savings, customer service improvements and program administration improvements.

Mrs. Zadell stated that we could easily send an email to other municipalities to ascertain that information.

Mr. Peters stated that he feels that constant data collection can hold up our being able to move forward on the trash issue, one way or another. He is concerned that at some point we need to present this to the Board of Supervisors and stop collecting new data.

On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lloyd the EAC decided to request information from other municipalities and circulate the comments. At their next meeting they will hold a vote as to whether or not they should draft an RFP.

The motion passed unanimously.

The committee then discussed the details that they wanted to include in the correspondence to other municipalities. They want to know why municipalities who are currently utilizing a contract system chose to do the contract system and how it is working out. They also will ask those who use the private subscription system chose to go with that and how it is working for them.

Mrs. Zadell will put a draft email together and distribute it to the EAC before she sends it.

Mr. Fehr went through some of his concerns in the report such as in appendix five, the bullet point discussing road wear and tear, is contradictory as it states that the damage to the roads from trash truck is exponentially increased when the truck is fuller. He stated that if we went with a single hauler system the trucks would of course be fuller.

Mr. Fehr pointed out that in appendix seven, the report states that cars are the largest contributor of emissions and it seems contradictory to the point that the trucks cause a lot of emissions pollution.

Mr. Peters stated that while we can't control the cars that operate in the Township, the one thing that we could control to make a difference is the trash trucks.

Mr. Sablosky stated that he feels that the report is poorly written and not compelling.

Mr. Fehr stated that no matter what we decide to do on this current trash report we do need to redo the ordinance at some point.

Mr. Peters stated that he appreciates the attention that the EAC is putting toward this process.

Mr. Peters discussed the video request he put out to the EAC last month. He stated that he has received two new videos. The North Wales video and the Septic video, that the submitted to Mrs. Zadell.

Mr. Lloyd will check with the Audubon Society for videos and Mr. Sablosky will forward us a FEMA PSA that he found regarding emergency preparedness.

Mr. Peters reminded the EAC members that they have to get permission before they submit the videos to air.

Mr. Lloyd brought up the idea of the composting seminar, he stated that we have done this in the past and he thinks it will be a good idea to do it again.

Mr. Peters asked Mr. Lloyd to get more information regarding composting seminars for our next meeting.

Mrs. Zadell will be sending an email to the EAC to ask them if anyone else would like to participate on the Historic Tree Subcommittee.

Mrs. Zadell also reported on the pricing for the shred event this summer, it will be \$675.00 with a 5% fuel surcharge.

Mr. Peters reported that Doylestown Borough would like to cosponsor the 2013 EAC Summit. He asked the committee if they were interested in hosting this year and the committee said that they would.

Mrs. Zadell will forward the invitation from last year to the EAC for review.

Mrs. Zadell reported on the 2012 Budget. The majority of their budget was spent on Big Green Boxes, the rest on memberships to Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and \$675 on last years shred event.

Mrs. Zadell requested that the committee discuss their meeting night. On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Sablosky the EAC decided to keep the same meeting night, the second Tuesday of the month.

Mrs. Zadell asked that the committee make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on who their chairman would be for 2013. On a motion made by Mr. Fehr, seconded by Mr. Richardson the EAC unanimously agreed to recommend Mr. Peters as the Chairman for 2013. Mr. Peters also stated that Mr. Prout will not be continuing on the EAC in 2013.

On motion made by Mr. Sablosky, seconded by Mr. Richardson the committee adjourned at 9:17PM.