

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2013

In Attendance: Keith Peters, Committee Chairman; Don Richardson, Sean Sablosky, Kelly McGowan, Jeannine Mitchell, Kellie McGowan, Kevin Brand, Jeff Fehr, Committee Members; Ray Hendrick, Township Ornithologist/Botanist and Tom Scarborough, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Sandra Zadell Staff Liaison and Mike Savona.

On a motion made by Don Richardson, seconded by Kelly McGowan, the amended meeting minutes were approved.

Keith Peters welcomed Mike Savona. He is an attorney at Eastburn and Grey that has handled many contract negotiations for municipal trash. Mr. Savona began by outlining the benefits of a contract trash system. He stated there is closer coordination between the trash hauler and the township. There is more control over the routes and when problems arise, management of the problems is tighter. Approval and control of trucks and general accountability is more manageable.

He made a couple suggestions for the draft Chalfont model based draft RFP. He stated we should limit our contract to a one or three year bid, giving many options for potential add-ons. He also stated that contracts are coming in at historically low prices. He suggested we reduce the size of the trash toter and stated that Recycle Bank is no longer operational. Any incentive program would have to be referred to as a recycling incentive program.

He said that several municipalities such as Northampton and Whitmarsh specifically, are selling their recyclables that they collect as commodities and they are able to capture quite a bit of revenue with the sales of those commodities. He cited Warminster as an example as they are bringing in about \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year in revenue from recycling. He stated that once you have a contract, the municipality owns the recyclables and is able to turn that into revenue.

He said that once you have a contract you can designate the vehicles, the types of vehicles, year, model, make of the vehicle that the hauler uses so you can force the issue of using smaller and lighter trucks. He stated that E.J. Lee would be a good contact at Whitmarsh Township to speak with about administration of the program there.

He also stated that you should require the hauler to be proactive on issues of education and recycling to encourage higher recycling numbers, which in turn, encourages higher revenues.

For accountability of the revenue he explained that the contract can dictate the hauler weigh at the recycling center and the haulers weigh station so you can compare both weights to make sure you are getting the correct weight.

Several EAC members asked if we could handle some of the changes to trash collection through an updated ordinance. He answered that an ordinance cannot cover everything that a contract can cover. It is impossible to have such tight controls unless it is through a contract.

At that point, the committee discussed Mr. Savona's presentation.

Mr. Richardson made a motion to include the municipal manager's survey with a memo and the trash report to forward to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Sean Sablosky. The motion passed.

Ms. McGowan stated that she feels that the memo and a whole packet of information that should go to the Board of Supervisors when we forward it. It should be:

Item A: The Municipal Managers Survey

Item B: The Trash Report

Item C: The RFP

Item D: A memo from the EAC stating the EAC's opinion and recommendations for the Board of Supervisors.

The EAC then discussed the time line for forwarding this information to the Board. Mr. Peters again reiterated that he wanted to move forward with this project since we have been reviewing it for such a long time. Mr. Fehr stated that he really wants to make sure that we take our time and have a clean and concise presentation for the Board of Supervisors. He doesn't feel that we should rush before we are ready to present.

The EAC decided to continue reviewing and creating the draft memo for the next EAC meeting where they will review it and Kelly McGowan will write a model RFP based on the Whitemarsh model.

The committee then reviewed and approved the memo from Ms. Mitchell to the Park and Rec Board regarding the bird blind.

On a motion made by Sean Sablosky, seconded by Don Richardson, the committee moved to forward the memo to the Park and Rec Board, the motion passed.

The committee chose the date for the 2013 EAC Summit. The date is May 23, from 7 to 9 PM. The committee inquired about Arbor Day. Mrs. Zadell stated that Arbor Day will be April 27 and she will follow up with Mr. John regarding what the exact event will be.

The committee reviewed their correspondence from Trout Unlimited and the Great American Clean-Up.

On a motion made by Mr. Fehr, seconded by Ms. McGowan the committee adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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