



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Absent: Ian Piro

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

- Approval of February minutes – approved with Robin’s changes.
- Subcommittees will now be called working groups, and any interested citizen is encouraged to participate at that level.

III. ENERGY

- Light Pollution Recommendation Follow Up
 - Locke’s piece on light pollution, which was distributed to the EAC, will be included in this month’s Borough newsletter.
 - New ordinance – David has a good framework for a potential new ordinance and the working group will review and tailor it for Media specifically including but not limited to poorly lit and over lit areas.
 - Eventually the Borough will replace old street lighting along State Street with LED and include black hats. There are grants and rebates to cover the costs.
- 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 or May.

IV. ZERO WASTE

- Various updates
 - The plastic bag and straw ban is underway, but education on straws should be enhanced.
 - Composting –
 - The new video will be included in this month’s Borough newsletter and buckets will be available at Jasper Street Jam.
 - Working group is meeting with the Zero Waste team at Swarthmore College on 3/10 to discuss their composting program.
 - Lamisa will be updating the cost benefit analysis of moving trash pick-up to once a week.
 - Karen will reach out to Chris at Kitchen Harvest to see if we can include shredded paper, which currently cannot be recycled.
 - Working group will develop 5-year goals next month and the other groups should do the same and EAC can review at a future meeting.
 - Waiting to hear from Omni Recycling on dates for the facility tour.
- Electronic Waste Recycling, Shredding, & Goodwill Event, Sat. March 11th
- Zero Waste Presentation, DCIS, 4/17, 7:30 p.m.

V. TRANSPORTATION

- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Next Steps
 - Meeting next week with the working group.
 - Robin reached out to Stealthpower, who provides emergency vehicle idle mitigation, and they said our fleets were too small, they did not work with hybrid cars and were very expensive. The working group will look at other companies.
 - Infrastructure –
 - Mark discussed applying for a grant for charging stations at the Borough workshop, and they were in favor. The focus should be first on the lots, then residential areas. The grant is open ended, but it runs out of money so apply as soon as possible. Also, there is a grant using Blink if the area under consideration is one mile from highway corridor, which Media is with respect to Baltimore Pike. Karen will reach out to Mary Gay Scanlon’s office for details.
 - The charging station in Media by the fire station is being replaced. In the last 5 years, there has been a huge increase in usage.
- Lithium Battery Fire Concerns
 - Police and Fire concerns – the fire department has expressed concerns over the risk of lithium batteries. If the fire department wants to pursue the issue, Paul Robinson can bring it up at the Borough workshop or at the public safety meeting.

VI. LAND & WATER

- Mosquito Spraying Mitigation Update

- Legal channel – Julie Smith and Robin met with Widener’s environmental law group to see if they can help determine if there are any opportunities to create an ordinance for the Borough limiting/eliminating mosquito spraying. They are assigning an intern to it and will get back to us in three weeks.
- Education – Julie is drafting an educational module, including leveraging existing PA legislation.
- Mosquito dunks with buckets - Can we give residents a kit to kill mosquito larvae including a bucket and dunks? Funding sources – It may qualify for an Environmental Education grant and Doug Tallamy might have ideas.
- We will participate in a multi municipal group of EAC to address this issue. Robin has been given the go-ahead to participate along with Julie Smith.
- Garden Tour Update – the tour will begin at 9:30 at the pollinator garden and end at noon, there may be an event at the end, and an opportunity for tabling.
- “Ask an Arborist” event, Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m., Community Center.
- Jefferson Street Stormwater Project – no updates
- Borough Climate Change Health Risks
 - Heat island –
 - The “Risk Factor” model tool calculates the probability of increased heat risk down to the street. (or Census Tract?)
 - There is a 97% chance the Borough will experience increased heat stress over the next 30 years.
 - There is a moderate risk of flooding in the next 30 years.
 - There should be group participation with this issue involving a larger group of stakeholders, with community involvement as well as Fire, Police and EMS. The community aggregation program should also be factored in.
 - DVRC grant is available but expires in the spring of 2024.
 - Ron will draft an outline and get it on the Borough workshop agenda.
 - We can utilize the Delaware County Plan that will be finalized in the fall.
- Flooding in Glen Providence Park – Delaware County is hiring a hydrologist to propose solutions to the degradation of the human-made pond in the Park, which is possible now that the dam issue is finally resolved.
- CRC Watershed association sent a mailing about road salt going into Valley creek. Erica will research if there are any places that have road salt restrictions that could be applied to Media.

VII. EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- EcoFest tabling, moved to the fall.
- Jasper Street Jam tabling, May 13th – Zero waste working group will promote composting and plastic bag ordinance.
- Garden Tour tabling, May 20th – need volunteers to promote EAC.
- EAC Network Conference report – no one was able to attend.
- New Borough Website – education working group will review and develop recommendations.
- Transition Town Presentation: https://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/src_a_sp/77/

The Next Meeting Will Be Held on April 13, 2023 – 7:00 PM