

Longswamp Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Notes: 15 September 2008

Present:

EAC Members
Diana Erney
Dale Fandl
Mike Sacks
Judy Sechler
Katherine Harms
Cathi Kratzer, Planning Commission Rep

Also Present:

Maryann Lantz, Township Supervisor
Steve Wyka, Township Supervisor
Joni McPike, Treasurer
Don Siegfried, Township Supervisor

Call to Order: 7:06 PM

Chair's Comments: none.

Approval of Minutes from the July Meeting: No notes for August.

Amendments to Agenda: None

Discussion Items:

1) *Topic:* Lehigh County Recycling Center Visit Reports

Key Points of Discussion:

The group discussed last month's visit to the Lehigh Valley Yard Waste Recycling Center. The EAC is planning to send out a survey to gauge interest in having a yard waste recycling program located within the township. They'll also pursue the possibility of collaborating with another township, possibly Hereford, in order to maximize grant potential.

The next township newsletter goes out in November and reaches approximately 2600 households. The goal is to include the survey within the newsletter and also to have it posted on the web site. In addition to querying residents, the survey will include questions about what types of issues residents would like to see addressed. It will also ask them about potential sites for next year's Earth Day Cleanup.

Don Siegfried says that the township already works with Hereford Township on several projects. Don Siegfried said that they might also be interested in some sort of joint equipment purchase. He also suggests that the EAC do some sort of a pilot project on the township property near one of the pavilions, perhaps

recycling Christmas trees. Diana Erney mentioned that the trees might also be used by the Wildlands Conservancy for stream bank restoration.

Joni has figures for labor and machinery, etc., if we need them for a grant proposal.

Action:

Cathi Kratzer will draft a survey and send it to members for review before the October meeting. Diana Erney will research costs, etc., for posting on Survey Monkey. Diana Erney will follow up with Hereford Township EAC regarding interest in a joint project.

2) Topic EAC Budget

Key Points of Discussion:

Joni McPike submitted copies of the 2008 budget current standings. The monies are available for expenses incurred before January 1 2009. The EAC discussed how best to utilize available funds.

Diana Erney suggested that the EAC purchase a laptop so that the township GIS system could be loaded onto the computer allowing EAC members to utilize the system to create a natural resource inventory.

Cathi Kratzer made a motion to purchase a laptop computer and install the GIS system for EAC use. Dale Fandl seconded the motion.

Diana Erney suggested that the EAC investigate purchasing equipment for streamwater monitoring. The tools would be used to monitor streams in the township and also for educational purposes.

There was also discussion about expanding the nature trail behind the township and adding bat, bird, and butterfly boxes. The benches are also looking worn and could use replacement.

Action: Diana will recommence getting a banner made with a new sign company. She'll also find out more about streamwater monitoring kits. Don Siegfried and Joni McPike will follow through on system requirements and purchasing a laptop.

3) Topic: Renewable Energy Ordinance

Key Points of Discussion:

There have been a couple of articles recently that have been critical of the township's proposed ordinance to regulate windmills. Diana Erney and Dale Fandl attended last month's supervisors meeting where it was discussed and

reported that they didn't hear anything that lead them to believe that the township was being over-zealous in creating the ordinance. Both felt as though the township had been willing to address all of the concerns put forth and investigate issues where there was some confusion. Don Siegfried said that the primary concern is that if the windmill were to fall down, the township wants to ensure that it falls on the owner's property. The \$3500 inspection fee is a byproduct of the inspection process required by the manufacturer and not something that has been imposed by the township. However, the township does feel that some of the soil testing requirements being mandated by the manufacturers and the inspection company are extreme and are investigating whether or not they can be modified.

Action: Judy Sechler will contact Bill Hennessy to see if he's available to attend a winter meeting (January or February) and the EAC will announce the date in the November newsletter. Judy Sechler will provide information to Cathi Kratzer to include in the newsletter.

5) *Topic:* Upcoming events:

Key Points of Discussion: Berks Co Conservancy is holding an EAC Breakfast on 10/2/08 from 7:30 to 9:30am. The deadline for registration is 9/25/08. Judy Sechler and Cathi Kratzer will attend.

Diana Erney will be attending the PEC annual member's meeting on 9-17-2008, where the acting DEP secretary will discuss the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act.

Action: Members will report on events at the next meeting.

Adjourned 8:46 PM

Next Meeting: October 20, 2008 7:00