

Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, March 23rd, 2011

Attendees

EAC: Paul Schmidt (Chair), Ron Attaria (Vice-Chair), Joe Slapinsky, Mara Baird, Deirdre Martinez, Seth Wilson, Skip Lynch
EAC Associate members: Leslie Smith
Township Liaison: Charles Baily
Township Board representation: None present
Community members: Marsha Low, Rich Petrowicz

General

Call to order
Minutes approved

Visitor Comments

Marsha Low, 3 issues raised: What is the arrangement between the township and the Conshohocken trash-to-steam plant? Can we put details into an FAQ for residents? Why don't we collect compost throughout the year? Finally, why has the EAC not taken a position on the water quality related to Marcellus Shale?

Board of Commissioners update

No Update

Township staff update

Chuck completed our questionnaire detailing process and procedures for Free Township Compost. Composting, no source control, millings. Windrow method used, turned at least 3 times. Recycling, township does composting at Morris Arboretum. Township, not MA responsible for compost.

Seth raised issue of residents finding foul smelling liquid from 425 Olmer and Roach. Chuck mentioned that this is a seasonal recurring problem. Liquid has been tested DEP and found not toxic. It is thought to be seepage from tree debris and Mulch

fermenting below ground. Some organic substance being brought up by spring rains and rising water table

Sustainable Springfield

Third Movie in Pennypack Sustainability Series at Ambler theater on April 12.
EAC/SuSpring to man table, give out Springfield Township Cloth shopping bags.
Chuck to provide 20 or so bags

EAC Topics & Projects

- 1) Social media; resident sustainability articles/blogs
 - a. Steve Heverin to go to next Website Enhancement Group to discuss EAC using Facebook, Twitter and enhanced website capabilities to communicate and educate on EAC programs/activities.
- 2) 4/9 EAC Conference at Villanova
 - a. Chuck – need to know who is going so they can be registered.
 - b. Christina Tierno, Leslie Smith only confirmed attendees from EAC
- 3) FELS Consultant, future meetings, 2011 projects, implementing 2012 plan
 - a. Discussion around appropriate use of Consultant's time.
 - b. Can we do a Grant application to keep Christina thru summer
 - c. Comments on EAC Survey/Evaluation due from EAC
 - d. Group to meet with Christina once in May and once in June
 - i. Survey Evaluation
 - ii. Grant for Planting at Cisco Park
 - iii. Strategic Plan Outline (June)
 - iv. 2012 rollout of new EAC program?
 - e. Meetings with Christina to be separate and TBD
- 4) Turf Brochure illustration, distribution
 - a. Mara – Sketches coming from Richard Metz
 - b. Free art search for cover of brochure under way
- 5) 5/7/2011 Lawn Mower Trade-in
 - a. Sponsored by DVRPC – trade in gas lawnmower for \$50 coupon toward electric Black&Decker mower
 - b. Our new Turf 101 brochure to be distributed if available
 - c. solar charging demo - Joe to contact organizers
 - d. Information table needs EAC volunteers
- 6) Watershed Maps/Watershed Brochure/Earth Day
 - a. Earth Day Event Details:
 - i. Inventory of Brochures (Chuck/Joe)
 - ii. Mara to ask printer, Sticker solution? Insert?
 - iii. April 23rd Sat. Meet @ 9:15am Township Building Parking Lot
 - iv. Volunteers request thru Sust. Springfield, other groups
 1. Request sent out to SuSpring List
 - v. Steve/Seth coordinating maps/routes info packets
 - vi. No rain date
 - vii. Comments on how to introduce self/activity
 - viii. Intro to Volunteers – Paul
 - ix. Seth to provide Orientation to activity

- x. Food = Paul
- xi. Tie back to Joe Barron and Nicole @ Springfield Sun on EarthDay Activity (Photos/Paul?)

Springfield Sun

- a. Discussion around article promoting and educating public on Watershed Map program for schools and associated activities.
- b. Leslie/Ron to contact Nicole at Springfield Sun to gauge their interest in doing a feature article.

Meeting Adjourned.