



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

EAC May Meeting Agenda

May 22, 2024 7 PM – Springfield Township Free Library

Attending

- Committee & Associates:
- Guests:
 - Rick Denszien

WELCOME TO MEMBERS & GUESTS

Welcome to our guests.

Welcome our new associate members, Alex and Ben.

- Introduce yourselves and let us know your priorities.

ATTENDANCE & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February & March Minutes - Stephen

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH

Email traffic was primarily Plastic Bag and No Mow May questions.

NEW BUSINESS

- Recognition of Sustainability Club - Joy
- EV Car Presentation - Rick Denszien
- Municipal Energy Savings Update - Joy
- Mermaid Park - Zeta

TOWNSHIP UPDATE/QUESTIONS

Updates - Brendan, Chuck

OLD BUSINESS

Associate EAC Members - Alex Waldmann and Ben Schimeneck were selected by the Board of Commissioners to join the EAC as Associate Members. (Ryan)

No Mow May – Signs were distributed from the library parking lot on April 27. Those that could not pick up at that time were accommodated. Final count was 80 unique signups. We had several people sign up multiple times. Approximately 60 signs were distributed. (Ryan)

Native Plant Sale – Our thanks to Primex Garden Center for providing a broad range of Natives and Nativar selections. They even provided an extra flat. Thanks to Chuck and the township staff that delivered the tables, chairs, and our banner. Martin, Aaron, and 6 volunteers, Cathy, Beth, Kate, Sophie, Asher, and Tommy set up, ran the sale, and broke down. We sold 264 plants and were sold out before 9:45. (Ryan)

The open space subcommittee met May 2nd to outline our purpose and to identify key stakeholders to invite to participate in the subcommittee, including members of the Planning Commission, Parks & Rec Board, Shade Tree Commission, and the Zoning Hearing Board.

The Open Space Subcommittee of the EAC aims to promote the preservation of natural habitats and ecosystems in the township for the benefit of wildlife and people through the following activities:

1. Provide the Board of Commissioners with a set of preservation objectives and criteria to inform decision-making about open space priorities and opportunities in the township. Use criteria to identify priority opportunities for preservation in the township.
2. Educate residents on the value of open space preservation, on the township's preservation objectives and criteria, and on how residents can support preservation by donating to the township's dedicated Open Space Fund.
3. Increase communications and alignment across township advisory committees, commissions and boards whose work intersects with open space preservation in the township.

Our next steps include following up with Commissioners Jim and Suzie about the subcommittee and reaching out to key stakeholders about participating in the subcommittee. (Farmer)

Solar Tour- Nine Springfield students (members of the Sustainability and STEM clubs and one middle schooler) attended the tour in Joy Bergey's backyard on May 11 to learn about her solar

panels that track the sun bi-directionally. Gail Farmer also gave the students a tour of the Carson meadow behind her property, and the many environmental benefits it provides: stormwater mitigation, home to wildlife, especially insect pollinators, etc. The kids were fabulous - totally engaged, asked great questions. (Bergey)

EV Police Car - State Senator Amanda Cappaletti (representing Upper and Lower Merion, West Norriton, and a few other munis) has apparently fully funded an EV police cruiser (Chevy Blazer, pursuit-rated) for West Norristown Township. I'm trying to find out from her office the source of the funding, in hopes that Springfield Township could approach Sen. Haywood with the same request for us. (Bergey)

Hydropower - Montgomery County is moving forward with its plan to install turbines in the dam in the Schuylkill River in Norristown to generate electricity for county operations. According to a feasibility study, the dam would generate 7400 MWH annually. Two sizable county buildings (One Montgomery Plaza, where the County offices are, and the new Justice Center) would use 3600 MWH annually, so there would be additional capacity available. Estimated cost is between \$800K and \$1.3M including design and engineering, with estimated completion time of up to five years, with a 30 year IRR. Some may be interested to know that the County thinks it is a small enough project to get a FERC exemption. Note: The public kick-off meeting for the dam will be June 5 at 1pm. Please contact Joy Bergey for more info. (Bergey)

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING EAC EVENTS

June 26, 2024 7 PM – Springfield Township Free Library

Please note, EAC agendas are subject to change without notice.