



# SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

## EAC October Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2024 7 PM – Springfield Township Free Library

**EAC Attendance: Gail, Martin, Pat H, Ben, Alex, Joy, Chuck, Adam, Brandon**

**Guests in Audience: 4**

### Attending

- Committee & Associates, Residents

### WELCOME TO MEMBERS & GUESTS

- No guests scheduled

### ATTENDANCE & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September Minutes

- **September minutes have been distributed. Gail made motion to publish minutes, Pat H seconded. Minutes will be published**

### GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

### COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH

None

### NEW BUSINESS

- Open Space - Gail
- Springfield Watershed Map - Joy

- **Chuck will ask Library if they would like the Watershed Map currently hanging in the Rec Center.**

- Energy Transportation Plan - Joy

• Joy and Bernadette to send this to Chuck who will then send this to township staff for input and feedback and then Board of Commissioners for comment and review.

- 2025 Planning – Martin – Moved item to December meeting due to projector malfunction.

## TOWNSHIP UPDATE/QUESTIONS

Updates - Brendan, Chuck

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Community Day

Stephen created a Community Day checklist that Martin and I discussed. Here is a draft that should be reviewed and added to. Prior to the next community day, someone needs to take an inventory of what handouts we have still in stock and what additional items we should get more printing of. We should also reach out to our partner volunteer organizations and get a refresh of handouts from them.

#### Energy Transportation Plan

Joy Bergey and Bernadette Fox have been working on the Energy Transportation Plan (ETP) and are close to a final draft. Martin, Ben, and Alex have reviewed it. The next step is to send it to staff for review. Could we vote on 10/23 to do this? Once staff has provided input, we can vote to send to the Commissioners for acceptance - hopefully by 12/31/24. If others wish to review the plan, please contact Joy. [Martin, please be prepared to open the google doc during the meeting]

#### Updates from Open Space Subcommittee

[This will be given by Gail, per my discussion with her a few days ago. Forgive me if I'm out of my lane, and Gail has already weighed in with a different request....Joy]

#### DEP's Shared Energy Manager Program

PA. Department of Environmental Protection is again offering to help 20 muni's next year with its Shared Energy Manager Program. This is not a financial grant, but rather technical assistance is made

available to awardees at no charge on various topics, e.g., energy benchmarking (our 2019 results need to be updated), developing a fleet electrification plan, etc. The Township applied in 2023 but was not chosen. DEP has significantly streamlined the application process, which is due in November.

Joy and Ben have reviewed the application criteria and recommend that the EAC recommend to the Commissioners and Staff that the Township apply again this year. Preferred awardees are either environmental justice communities (we are not) and those who have a formal climate action plan (we do not. But we need one, in case anybody would like to write one). If the EAC approves, Joy and Ben will put together a letter to staff and Commissioners with our handful of specific suggestions.

- **Joy and Ben will draft responses to the survey for Mike Taylor to submit.**

### **Electrification of Lawn Equipment**

Aaron spoke with Jeff Bedard at the school district re facilitating a showcase/demonstration with Toro for the groundskeeping and admin folks at the school district. I also explained how successful this was with the Township and how the Township has committed to eventually electrifying its fleet. He said they have ongoing sustainability assessment work and that he would include this information in that process and get back to me.

### **Gas Powered Leaf Blower**

Ellie Kerns just shared that PennEnvironment has developed a new suite of resources that just went live. To start, they have a new interactive map of more than 200 leaf blower policies and incentives across the country along with policy recommendations for all types of governments and organizations to go electric. Additionally, PennEnvironment's sister organization in Colorado has put together a set of videos with an electric lawncare guy and an Ace hardware store owner on how both homeowners and landscapers can go electric and find the best electric equipment to suit their needs. All of these new resources have been added to the main landing page for the other resources that PennEnvironment has to offer as well. I'll be posting some of this material on our Facebook page.

### **PECO Green Region Grant**

One \$50,000 Path to Clean effort that can be used towards a fully electric Ford Lighting vehicle. Ian has submitted grant and was instantly denied due to the funds needing to be available to the public. Gail was able to request an extension from PECO for another week to submit the grant. Ian and Ron

Celentano will come up with another idea to apply for in the next week, which may include additional power charging stations for vehicles.

### Open Sky Public Presentation to Residents

Open Sky is offering to put on a presentation to residents to better understand solar installation and help answer any community questions. Joy has requested a paragraph or two to review their proposal with EAC for consideration to recommend approval to Board of Commissioners.

Joy will provide an update on this in the December meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

### UPCOMING EAC EVENTS

December 4, 2024 7 PM – Springfield Township Free Library

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