

PALMER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
January 22, 2020, 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 6:30pm. In attendance were Tom Dittmar, Anita Forrester, Nancy Nicholas, Cindy Oatis, Ann-Marie Panella, Ginny Sciorra, and Deanne Werkheiser. Members absent included Madison Smith and Doreen Shaffer. Brian Hillard, of LVEAC Network, was present as a guest.
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Reorganization – Chairman Dittmar passed the meeting to Supervisor Panella for the acceptance of nominations.
 - i. Nomination of Chairman – A motion was made by Anita Forrester, second by Nancy Nicholas, to nominate Tom Dittmar, Chairperson of the ESC for 2020. The nomination was declined by Tom Dittmar. The committee extended its appreciation to Tom for the many years of service and dedication to this committee and its various efforts over the years.
 - ii. Nomination of Chairman – A motion was made by Deanne Werkheiser, second by Nancy Nicholas, to nominate as Anita Forrester Chairperson of the ESC for 2020.
The motion carried with Doreen Shaffer and Madison Smith absent.
 - iii. Nomination of Vice-Chairman – A motion was made by Deanne Werkheiser, second by Nancy Nicholas, to nominate as Ginny Sciorra Vice- Chairman of the ESC for 2020.
The motion carried with Doreen Shaffer and Madison Smith absent.
 - iv. Designation of ESC Meeting Time, Date and Place - A motion was made by Deanne Werkheiser, second by Nancy Nicholas to confirm previous discussions that 2020 ESC meetings will be held at the Palmer Public Library, the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 6:30pm, except during the months of November and December.
The motion carried with Doreen Shaffer and Madison Smith absent.
 - v. Designation of Secretary – A motion was made by Werkheiser, second by Nancy Nicholas, that Cindy Oatis remain functioning as Secretary of the ESC for 2020 for the purpose of maintaining consistency and accuracy of recording requirements, etc. that must be met for this position.
The motion carried with Doreen Shaffer and Madison Smith absent.
 - b. Madison Smith has relocated outside of Palmer and will be formerly resigning from the committee. The committee enjoyed Madison’s fresh approach and she will be missed.
 - c. Brian Hillard, reviewed the direction of the LVEAC and updated the committee on various items including as follows:

- i. The committee reviewed the request for feedback from Lynn Rothman, Chair of the Bethlehem EAC, regarding our interest in possibly participating in a Lehigh Valley-wide sustainability organization. This would include representatives from church groups and a local university for the purpose of developing a program whereby restaurants that meet certain sustainability criteria (i.e. no single use plastic, organic food, energy efficiency, etc.) would receive a “green seal of approval” type recognition. The committee expressed interest in this initiative. Werkheiser requested that more information be provided as additional information becomes available.
3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** – Forrester called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Sciorra, seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. 2020 E-cycling Event with Northampton County
 - i. Oatis reported that Palmer received approval from Northampton County for the ecycling event to be held at the EAHS, on Saturday, April 25, 2020. The Palmer Board of Supervisors approved the contract at the last meeting, and this was able to be placed in the upcoming February newsletter.
 - ii. Werkheiser, Nicholas, and Sciorra indicated that they could be present and Forrester and Sciorra indicated that they will need to leave early. The pre-event meeting will be held in February and Oatis will be including Palmer Police and Public Works. Werkheiser agreed to arrange refreshments for volunteers utilizing donations from various locations.
 - b. 2020 Earth Day Litter Clean Up
 - i. Dittmar and Nicholas will take the lead on this event. The designated date of April 25th, at the library parking lot, will need to be changed since the committee will be hosting the ecycling event. Nicholas suggested we join an existing litter clean up, providing volunteers, assisting with advertising, etc.
 - c. Energy Efficient Car Show – Sciorra will take the lead on this event. Sciorra spoke with a representative of the Palmer Park Mall and has received additional information and their contract. Oatis indicated that all contracts have to be reviewed by the township solicitor and then approved and signed by the board of supervisors. Sciorra will provide details received from Palmer Park Mall to the committee. Brian Hillard recommended considering piggybacking this event on one of the other 3 possible similar events currently being planned since Palmer has such a large and very visible site. Brian offered to reach out to this contact for possible options. Committee agreed this event would be a good fit for the Dunkin Donuts new “Cruiser.”
 - d. Palmer ESC Participation in the LV Climate Action Network – Pursuant to Supervisor Panella’s request, Oatis confirmed approval of this participation with Robert Williams, township manager.
 - e. T-Shirts to Identify Volunteers at Events – Oatis to research T-shirt companies in Palmer. Nicholas will take the lead with the ordering process.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Werkheiser informed the committee of the Northampton Council of Governments (COG) Meeting May 20, 2020, 8:30 – 12pm, at Lehigh University. Werkheiser will provide additional info as it becomes available.

5. REPORTS

a. Recycling Report – C. Oatis

Oatis informed the committee that preparation of the bid specifications has begun and the administration and board of supervisors have requested pricing on bulk items and contract terms.

b. Supervisor Report – A. Panella

Panella informed the committee that she appreciates the members being the eyes and ears of the community. Thoughts, suggestions, etc. should be passed on to Oatis and Panella.

6. NEXT MEETING – February 26, 2020, 6:30pm

7. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made to adjourn by Nicholas, seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all.