

PALMER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 23, 2019, 6:30pm

Minutes

- 1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. In attendance were Tom Dittmar, Nancy Nicholas, Cindy Oatis, Ann-Marie Panella, and Deanne Werkheiser. Guests included Ginny Sciorra, and Doreen Shaffer.
- 2. REORGANIZATION**

The meeting was turned over to Ms. Panella who called for and received the following nominations:

 - A. Tom Dittmar was nominated for chairman by Werkheiser, seconded by Nicholas, and approved by all.
 - B. Nicholas was nominated for vice chairman by Werkheiser, seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all.
 - C. Cindy Oatis will continue as secretary for the time being and until such time as a member becomes available to accept this position.
- 3. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Atrazine - Bridget Salantri gave an overview of the committee's ongoing research and review of the atrazine issue for the benefit of our guests. She indicated Bushkill Stream Conservancy and Penn State Extension (Erin Frederick) are willing to provide volunteers for watershed monitoring. Dittmar and Werkheiser discussed the idea of including the four Council of Governments (COG) in Northampton County. The motion was made by Werkheiser that the committee make the recommendation to the Palmer Board of Supervisors that they review and consider providing education for the purpose of raising awareness of the effects of atrazine on the environment, humans, and watershed. She further included in the motion the recommendation that Palmer fund atrazine testing twice a month, during the months of April through August, along the Bushkill Stream, in the area of Penn Pump Park, at the approximate cost, of \$180.00 per test. The motion was seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all.
- 4. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Earth Day Celebration – Oatis indicated that ReStore is no longer hosting paint recycling or Stuff-a-Truck events. Werkheiser to speak with Serena Davis (NH County) regarding co-hosting paper shredding. Other items being considered include, but are not limited to, MS4 education, a plant exchange, earthworm education, composting workshop via Rainbow's online composter purchasing program, and a litter cleanup. The motion was made to move forward with research and planning for this event by Dittmar, seconded by Nicholas and approved by all.
 - B. Bushkill Stream Conservancy - Werkheiser indicated that since R. Reese is no longer representing Palmer at the Conservancy meetings, another ESC member should be considered. The committee agreed that Madison Smith would be the likely candidate and Oatis will reach out to her before the next meeting.
- 5. REPORTS**
 - A. Recycling Report – Oatis reported that the contract signing process for the 2018 PA DEP 902 Grant (recycling center) is underway. The engineering firm is beginning the land preparation process, beginning with the NPDES permitting.
 - B. MS4 Report – Oatis gave the MS4 Report in Smith's absence. T. Adams met with the DEP in December to discuss Palmer's mapping of MS4 storm sewer systems. The DEP indicated inlets, inlet connections, creeks, discharge points, and detention basins are all pre-final and the plans will be checked. They indicated Palmer's plan is exactly what they are looking for and work will continue on finalizing the Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP). The DEP is looking to

reduce the sedimentation load by 10% in the Bushkill Creek watershed and urbanized areas. Important to note that as the mandate becomes more restrictive, it will be tougher to keep up with the work required under this unfunded mandate. Oatis also discussed the worn stenciled locations and the application of the newer and longer lasting emblems.

- C. Supervisor Report – Ms. Palmer reported that the Palmer budget was approved without a tax increase and the new township manager will be announced at the February 4, 2019, Palmer Board of Supervisors' meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made by Werkeiser to adjourn, seconded by Dittmar, and approved by all.

7. NEXT MEETING: February 27, 2019

Submitted by C. Oatis