

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
March 24, 2021, 6:30 PM
MINUTES**

- 1. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 6:35pm. In attendance were Anita Forrester, Nancy Nicholas, Tyler Nemura, Cindy Oatis, Ann-Marie Panella, Ginny Sciorra, and Doreen Shaffer. Deanne Werkheiser was absent.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** - Motion to approve the February meeting minutes was made by Nicholas, seconded by Nemura, and approved by all.
- 3. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A.** Educational Articles and Webinars – Forrester lead a discussion on creating an environmentally friendly landscape and backyard by encouraging pollinators, considering native plant choices, etc. All agreed that a series of articles with this focus would be helpful to residents with a desire to take a more sustainable approach. Forrester’s introductory article on this topic was reviewed by all and will be placed in the upcoming newsletter. The committee decided on the following: Nemura will research and provide information on pollinators; Forrester will focus on climate change; Nicholas will provide information on monarch butterflies; and Sciorra look into zero waste; where appropriate, some could be utilized for children. All articles will be provided to the rest of the committee on or before April 21st, for review and comment at the April meeting.
 - B.** E-cycling Events 2021 – Oatis will continue to follow up with Serena Davis regarding possible 2021 events.
 - C.** Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Litter Clean-up – Oatis confirmed we have supplies such orange vests, litter collectors and bags available. All should consider bringing gloves for hand protection. Litter collection will take place on April 18th and the rain date will be the 25th, with pandemic precautions in place. Location to be finalized as soon as possible.
 - D.** Logo – Oatis identified the website “Canva.com” that could be used for logo design. Sciorra commented that perhaps we could modify the Palmer seal and agreed to try to create something we could use.
- 4. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A.** Plastic Bag Initiative – Forrester reported that Penn Environment has filed a lawsuit on the premise that the Commonwealth of PA cannot legally “ban” the municipal right to ban plastic bags.
 - B.** ESC vs. EAC – Oatis will provide the training conference and website information in preparation for a formal decision by the committee at the next meeting.

- C. Palmer Climate Action Plan – Forrester invited Kate Semmens, of the Nurture Nature Center, to speak with the committee at our April 28th meeting for the purpose of learning more specific information about municipal climate action plans.

5. REPORTS

- A. Recycling Report – Oatis informed the committee that Palmer awarded the collection and transport of waste and recyclables contract to Waste Management. The contract contains some operational changes, but no major changes to residential curbside collections. Oatis further reported on the flex plastic packaging program offered by TotalRecycle, Inc. and explained the pros and cons of same. Sciorra made a motion stating that the committee approves of the concept, but upon review of the materials. Motion was seconded by Nemura and approved by all.
- B. Supervisor Report – Panella updated the committee on her dislike of residents placing items curbside with signs saying “free.” Discussion ensued about the unsightliness of this practice, but also recognizing the desire of some residents to get rid of items for free and/or allowing them to be reused by others. The suggestion was made that Palmer consider posting on the website that items like this can be placed on Facebook Marketplace, Nextdoor, or possibly be taken by Green Drop in the event they can’t be dropped off at local thrift stores. Shade Tree Commission – Ann Marie stated there is an opening if anyone has an interest in serving.

- 6. **GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Penn Environment will be hosting the viewing and discussion of the “The Biggest Little Farm” on April 1st, at 7pm, with discussion to follow. Register and view the documentary between March 31st and April 1st.
- 7. **ADJOURNMENT** - Motion was made to adjourn by Sciorra, seconded by Nemura, and approved by all.
- 8. **NEXT MEETING** April 28, 6:30pm