

Palmer Township, Northampton County

Environmental Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

February 26th, 2025, 6:30PM, 3 Weller Place, Municipal Meeting Room, Lower Level

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Karen Adams, Celia Williams, Colin Burke, Phil Perhamus, Monica Cintron, Ashley Cohen, Yvonne Lee, and Township Supervisor Charles Bellis III.
- b. Also present: Zach Trexler
- c. The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM.

2. New Member Welcome

- a. Williams introduced the new member, Yvonne Lee, to the committee and asked her to introduce herself. Lee expressed her excitement to join the committee and learning more about the community and its environmental and sustainability efforts. She also discussed her professional career at Lehigh University.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 22nd, 2025

- a. Williams asked if anyone had any corrections or comments on the minutes. Hearing none, Adams made a motion to approve the minutes and Burke seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. Old Business

a. LCAP

- i. Perhamus explained that he is exploring ways to improve energy efficiency in both existing municipal buildings as well as new buildings. Perhamus said this research is still ongoing, and he expects to have a report prepared for the March committee meeting. Perhamus discussed his research in light bulbs, HVAC equipment, and different types of light switches. Perhamus said his goal is to have a punch list for the Township to use when constructing new buildings or retrofitting existing infrastructure to enhance energy efficiency.
- ii. Adams gave Lee a brief explanation of the Climate Action Plan and informed her where all the documents were stored. Adams stated that the committee needs to keep the plan moving forward and continue to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Adams stated that she favors having a true energy audit done and building on that. Adams said she is also looking at plantings to aid floodwater mitigation because the Township has grants ongoing to help with this, specifically mentioning the Fox Run Park grant.
- iii. Adams stated that Craig from the Township would be in to speak with the Committee at the next meeting to discuss the Bushkill Greenway project, and he is looking for a representative from this committee to sit on the action committee.

b. Earth Day

- i. Williams said that Cintron, Cohen, and herself have been meeting to continue to discuss and plan the event. Cintron said so far, we have about 23 vendors participating in the event, as well as a food truck to serve all the attendees. Cintron explained the events that will be taking place to kick off the event, which are the walk hosted by Walkers Unlimited at 8am and the pickleball tournament starting at 9am. Cintron discussed the various vendors that will be in attendance, as well as the project with the Palmer Elementary School students and the art contest. Adams asked who the food truck is, and Cintron said it is PFG Pizza. Cintron stated there will be three presenters during the event, which will be Phil Perhamus presenting native plants, Tony Rose presenting rain barrels, and Nurture Nature presenting alternative energy. Adams asked if a raffle would be held again this year, and Cintron confirmed.
 - ii. Burke suggested using the entirety of the budget allocated for this event, and Williams agreed. He also said he knows a person interested in participating in the event who does laser etching and asked if he could be invited. Williams asked Burke to share his contact information with her so she could reach out.
 - iii. Trexler confirmed with Williams that the Stormwater Authority and Public Works would be in attendance with a street sweeper and the new vacuum truck.
 - iv. Bellis suggested putting a table out with various items to see if people know what is and what is not recyclable, which is very engaging. Williams agreed that it was a good idea.
- c. **Township Newsletter**
- i. Williams discussed the article written by Burke that was submitted for the last edition of the newsletter and stated that Cintron will be adding the article to all social media pages. Lee asked if Facebook was the only social media page that is utilized. Williams said everything we post is first approved by the Township, so we would have to check with them. Williams said we have all of this year covered for newsletter articles, but we are still looking to fill in the signup sheet for the next two years. Perhamus said he is writing the next article for submission. Williams also said she is beginning to coordinate with other Township committees to ensure there is not repeating information with environmental newsletter articles. Lee suggested creating a centralized sheet that every committee could access to view what everyone is submitting to the newsletter.
- d. **ESC Rebrand Update**
- i. Williams said we are presenting to the Board of Supervisors next week our committee rebrand with our new logo, as well as the updated vision, mission and scope statements. Cintron said if it gets approved, we will make it visible to the public, so everyone is aware of the goals of the committee. Cintron stated we wanted to make sure we highlighted the

environment with the new logo, while also ensuring not to diminish any mention of Palmer Township. Cintron reminded the committee that all of these changes are subject to the approval by the Board of Supervisors and Bellis confirmed. Burke asked if edits could still be made to both the logo and mission statements or if it is too late at this point. Williams and Cintron both said that at this point, it is too late because it all needs to be submitted to the Township by tomorrow.

5. New Business

a. Recycling information materials & updating residents

- i.** Adams stated that the information provided to the residents through various media can be very confusing and now is a great time to look at everything to see what needs to be changed or updated. Adams stated a process should be put in place to ensure all materials are reviewed. Adams suggested getting in touch with Mascaro since they are the company who processes all of the Township's recyclables. Adams said once we get everything finalized, we can get all the info pushed out. Perhamus said he has noticed there is a difference in information between the postcard we receive annually and what is on the website.

b. Attendance at other Township meetings

- i.** Admas asked if we can coordinate being at all possible Township meetings, like the Supervisors, Stormwater, and others to ensure we are up to speed and more communicative moving forward. Bellis stated that he tries to attend every meeting, but it is a lot, but it does help to have a better understanding of everything going on across the Township. John Marks stated that whoever goes to a specific meeting should always attend that meeting to attain continuity.

c. Public Works Department Tour

- i.** Supervisor Bellis stated that the new vehicle for the Stormwater Authority has arrived at the Public Works Garage, and he is looking to arrange a tour of the building along with the new vehicle. Williams said we will meet at the garage on the 12th of March at 10am.

6. Reports

a. Board of Supervisors

- i.** Bellis reminded the committee to keep their presentation for the Supervisors short and simple. He also announced the Bushkill project will have a committee established to support the project, with a representative from all committees. Bellis asked the committee to review the documents. Bellis also welcomed the new member to the committee and wished her the best of luck.

b. Environmental branches of Township

- i.** Marks said the Earth Stewards would be presenting to the Board of Supervisors at an upcoming meeting regarding the Palmer Proud event.

Marks discussed the event and what would be going on that day. Ken Starace said so far, people have seemed very interested in the event.

7. Public Comment

- a. Burke announced that he is running for Palmer Township Supervisor this upcoming election. Burke said he apologizes for seeming a bit quiet, but he has a lot going on and he is very busy.

8. For the Good of the Order

- a. Williams discussed the Walkers Unlimited walking challenge that is coming up. She said they are also holding a walk at Fairview Park on Earth Day. She stated she has a flyer she will share with the group. Burke asked if the flyer could be posted on the committee media sources, and Bellis said he already started sending them to people around the Township, and he has gotten a lot of responses already.
- b. Cohen asked if the ESC email was created, and Williams confirmed. Williams asked if the email address could be added to the ESC website page, and he confirmed.

9. Next Meeting: April 23rd, 2025

10. Adjournment

- a. Burke made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Adams seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 7:55 PM.