

Palmer Township, Northampton County

Environmental Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

June 26th, 2024, 6:30PM, 3 Weller Place, Lower-Level Municipal Meeting Room

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Karen Adams, Tony Rose, Colin Burke, and Celia Williams.
- b. Also present: Zach Trexler, Charles Bellis III and Dawn Burke
- c. Absent: Bill Hartin, Phil Perhamus and Michael Brett
- d. The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 22nd, 2024

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

3. Old Business

a. Earth Day

- i. Adams stated that we have decided on the time and the place for next year's event. She mentioned that everyone should be keeping a lookout for potential speakers to participate at the event.
- ii. Rose mentioned that he will create a binder of protocols for the event as well as others so that future planning is made easier. Adams agreed that this was a good idea.

b. E-cycle event

- i. Adams stated that we hit a roadblock when deciding to open the event to other municipalities within Northampton County when told we needed to seek Board of Supervisor approval. She said that is where we need to start now for planning purposes.
- ii. Williams asked why this was not brought to the Board of Supervisor at their last meeting. Trexler stated that after the May committee meeting, he sought out information from other Township staff, who informed him that the committee should seek Board approval before planning anything else. Trexler said that the Township Manager informed him that the Board will want to know how the committee plans to fund the event and how they will charge the other participating municipalities. Trexler said that there is money budgeted to cover the cost of the event, but that is what the committee would be seeking approval for.
- iii. Adams asked the committee what the fee structure will look like. She suggested it should be the population of each township divided by the total population of all of the townships, multiplied by \$3,000.00. Rose stated that we should also run the calculations by multiplying by \$6,000.00 to account for not receiving the County grant.
- iv. Trexler asked for confirmation that the September 14th event is being cancelled, Adams confirmed. He then asked if the event is going to be

held in the Spring and open to the County, where is the event going to be held. Williams stated that it should be held at Easton Area High School.

- v. Burke asked why we are opening it up to the County and Rose stated that it is a good service to the County. Adams stated that the decision was made and agreed upon at the last meeting.
- vi. Adams reminded the committee that this matter needs to be taken to the Board of Supervisors in the near future. Williams said that we will work in excel to figure out the fee structure beginning tomorrow. Adams said that we cannot approach the Board prior to agreeing on a fee structure.
- vii. Williams asked what date the event will now be held. Rose said we should do it sometime this coming Spring. Trexler said that he will have to check with the contractor and the school to see about availability during the Spring. The committee suggested holding the event in late May/early June.
- viii. Burke suggested keeping the event on for this September and approaching the Supervisors at their next scheduled meeting for approval. Rose stated that we cannot agree on a fee structure now since we do not have the calculations done yet, and that we will not be agreeing on the structure until the next meeting at the end of July.
- ix. Trexler stated that his concern going forward is whether or not the High school can handle the traffic. Williams stated that she spoke with Tom Dittmar of the Earth Stewards who told her that he used to hold County wide events at the High School without any issues.

4. New Business

a. 5k Recap

- i. Adams asked Williams how the 5k went on June 22nd. She said it went great and they had a great turnout. Williams said that there were 33 total participants. She also said there were people in other areas who participated virtually. She said there was also a lot of community support from local businesses.

b. Single Use Plastics Reduction Study

- i. Adams stated that there is only one remaining question which is what this committee will do about this going forward, if anything. She stated that the Board of Supervisors listened to the presentation and directed all responsibility to the County level.
- ii. Supervisor Charles Bellis III asked Adams if anyone research had been completed regarding the impact these bans have had in the state of New Jersey. Adams discussed the research that was done already and the opportunity for more research to be completed.
- iii. Supervisor Bellis informed the committee that the Earth Stewards of Palmer are beginning to plan a Township-wide cleanup event in 2025. Bellis said that he wants to make the event big and get the whole Township out to help clean up.

c. Committee membership

- i. Supervisor Bellis informed the committee that he is actively trying to fulfill the last vacancy on the committee and that he had someone reach out to him recently to inquire about getting involved on this committee.

d. LCAP Update

- i. Adams stated that the decision on how to proceed with the LCAP project remains in the hands of the Board of Supervisors at this time. Trexler confirmed that this was the current plan.

e. Rain Barrel Demonstration Update

- i. Rose said that it was a wonderful event, and that we successfully got 8 more rain barrels into the community. He stated that residents came and learned about stormwater management, township committees, and local environmental organizations. He also said the whole event was done without incurring any cost to the Township. He said everyone enjoyed the day. Adams congratulated Rose on a successful event.

5. Reports

a. Board of Supervisors

- i. No reports at this time.

b. Environmental branches of Township

- i. No reports at this time.

6. Public Comment

- a. Supervisor Bellis stated that in early September there will be a soft opening of the Youth Center. He invited the committee to attend the soft opening to get an idea of the size of the building and the area surrounding the center. He again reminded the committee that holding an Earth Day Event at the Youth Center could be a great idea. Rose said that this is an opportunity to get our foot in the door to be able to hold events in this building in the future.
- b. Dawn Burke, 1415 Stones Crossing Road, said that we need more Police patrolling the Old Orchard area. She cited an incident that recently occurred where someone stopped their car and dropped a coffee cup in her yard. She said that she is tired of picking up other people's trash.
- c. Colin Burke, 1415 Stones Crossing Road, said that he has seen an increase in the deer population lately Township wide. He said that a reminder should be sent out to all residents that they should not be feeding the deer. Rose and Trexler suggested drafting a letter and getting it put into an upcoming edition of the Township newsletter.

7. For the Good of the Order

- a. Nothing at this time.

8. Next Meeting: July 24th, 2024

9. Adjournment

- a. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Burke seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 7:58PM.