

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
May 27, 2020, 6:30 PM
MINUTES**

1. **ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 6:35pm. In attendance were Anita Forrester, Nancy Nicholas, Cindy Oatis, Ann-Marie Panella, and Ginny Sciorra. Deanne Werkheiser and Doreen Shaffer were absent.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS** - Oatis introduced Cyndie Carmen Kramer, Director of Planning, who will be managing the technical side of our first Zoom meeting tonight. Forrester introduced Tyler Nemura, a Northampton Community College biology and environmental science student, who has expressed an interest in joining the committee. Oatis informed all that the meeting would be recorded and used solely for verifying minutes. The recording will be destroyed immediately after the minutes are reviewed and approved.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Forrester called for a motion to approve the January 22, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Nicholas, seconded by Sciorra, and approved by all.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (on agenda items only) No public present.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Resignations of Madison Smith and Thomas Dittmar – The Township received formal letters of resignation from Madison Smith and Thomas Dittmar. Forrester commented that though her time on the committee was brief, she brought a passionate voice to the group and we wish her well in her new position. Forrester also thanked Tom and expressed appreciation for his 27 years of volunteer service and dedication in supporting this committee. The committee agreed that Tom will be sorely missed.
 - B. ESC 2020 Plan of Action – All ESC 2020 events including the Earth Day Litter Clean-up and the Electronics Recycling Event were cancelled according to the PA State of Emergency and Stay-at-Home mandates. The likelihood of the Energy Efficient Car Show being allowed under the current situation was slim, and the decision was made to postpone this event to a future date.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Educational Virtual Options – Discussion regarding the limited options available to the committee under the current COVID19 restrictions. Forrester introduced the virtual options of educational webinars, modules, and tours related to various subjects such as science, climate change, current electoral candidates, and more. These could be placed on the Palmer Facebook page, website, and made available to students, adults, and various organizations, etc.
 - Oatis offered to do the first one on recycling. Members agreed to each submit their thoughts and ideas regarding content, contacts, actions required, etc. to Forrester for compilation. Once compiled, Forrester will forward all to the committee for

review. Members will then be able to discuss and finalize at the next meeting.
This will allow plenty of time for budget requests.

- B. Earth Day Celebration 2021 - April 24th, Chrin Community Center – members can begin working on the organizational and logistical aspects for discussion at the next meeting.
- C. Tyler Nemura – After some discussion, Tyler expressed his interest in joining the committee. Forrester made a motion that the ESC recommend that the Board of Supervisors nominate Tyler Nemura to the Environmental Steering Committee for the December 31, 2020 open member term.

7. UPDATES/REPORTS

- A. Recycling Report – Oatis reported that COVID19 has had a significant impact on trash and recycling with the country seeing a 30% increase in both areas. This is likely to have an impact on the pricing of our upcoming service contract.
- B. Supervisor Report - Panella addressed the impact of COVID19 on the Township including the closing of the municipal building and the Charles Chrin Community Center and that the decisions on summer camps, opening the pool, and the community center will be made based on the governor and board of health guidelines which are forthcoming. Sciorra asked if the Palmer Board of Supervisors meetings were recorded and placed on the website. Since the Board just began Zoom meetings, neither Panella or Oatis were able to answer that question. Panella suggested calling or emailing the township office. Oatis reported that the new website is up and running and that additions and modifications are still taking place.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-agenda items only) No members of the public present.

9. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- A. Lehigh and Northampton Counties are expected to move to the yellow phase on June 5, pursuant to Governor Wolf's press release today.
- B. EASD Graduation Parade will take place on Wednesday, June 10th at 6:00pm

10. NEXT MEETING: June 24, 2020

11. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made to adjourn by Nicholas, seconded by Sciorra, and approved by all.