

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
July 28, 2021, 6:30 PM
Minutes**

• **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS—**

- The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:42 pm in the Palmer Library
- In attendance were Ann-Marie Panella, Ginny Sciorra, Nancy Nicholas, Tyler Nemura, and Anita Forrester
- Doreen Shaffer and Deanne Werkheiser were absent.
- Guests: Diane Halasz (Palmer Township resident), and Joshua Kasenga (Palmer Township resident)

• **APPROVAL OF May 26, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

- Motion by Sciorra
- Second by Nemura

• **President's report– Anita Forrester**

- Discussed why the new members of the Palmer ESC have to be approved by the Supervisors. Questioned if other board members have to get approval.
- Panella suggested the ESC combine with the Shade tree Commission. She will address this question with Bob Williams, the township manager. Halasz suggested a ESC member should be appointed to the Shade Tree Commission.
- An email with an attachment comparing an ESC to an EAC will be sent so the group can decide if they want to become an EAC instead of an ESC
- Suggested we table asking the ESC members for articles for the newsletter since no one wants to do this task. Suggested that small pieces of the Green Guides could be placed in the newsletter with a link to the complete article which would be on the Palmer Township website.
- Discussed that she has been told that the ESC cannot have a Facebook page even if it was one that only showed posts and did not allow comments.
- Commented that all projects presented during the 2 1/2 years that she has been a member of the ESC have been blocked
- LOGO will stay the same as the township with a possible addition of the words Environmental Steering Committee around the outside of the circle
- Use of the Weller plot outside the library was discussed. Will look into the possibility of having some of the acreage become meadows and not mowed grass. The township would save money by not having to mow the grass and the citizens of Palmer would get to enjoy the beauty of a

native plant meadow. Halasz found this in the document labelled Palmer Township Comprehensive Plan of 2003 "This plan recommends that the township's 1991 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan be updated. To make the best use of existing township open space, the Weller Tract behind the Municipal Building should be improved with walking paths, benches and a memorial arboretum. A memorial arboretum involves persons donating money to pay for a tree in memory of a loved one. An overall landscaping plan should be prepared that offers choices of tree species." There is no mention of this in the most recent Comprehensive Plan.

- Panella stated that the Palmer Recovery Center (a 503B funded by the County) is looking for land in Palmer to grow native plants. Suggestions were the area in front of Parkview Estates, Glenmoor or the Highlands developments and Strausser's property behind the Sheetz store. The ESC members can look around for anymore suggestions of suitable properties.
- Plastic bag ban can now be revisited.
- Suggestions were to contact members of the Palmer BIP, create an environmental award for businesses with a sticker that can be placed in the window of the business and a mention in the Palmer Newsletter. These could be presented at the BIP awards ceremony.
- **New Business**
 - 2 new members will be presented at the August supervisor's meeting for approval
 - Contact Neal Fennel to have lanyards made to identify the ESC members at events
 - Discussed the need for solar charging stations at the township buildings
 - Palmer Community Day 2022—could give away an electric weed whacker or native tree seedlings
 - Budget planning for 2022 begins in September.
- **Supervisor's report – Panella**
 - Nothing more to add
- **Adjournment**
 - motion by Nemura second by Sciorra
- **Next meeting— August 25th at 6:30 pm in the Palmer Library**