

PALMER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
March 28, 2018, 6:30 PM
MINUTES

1. **MEMBERS PRESENT** – Tom Dittmar, Cindy Oatis, Ann-Marie Panella, Ken Starace

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

At Your Door Presentation – Tom Stang, Public Sector Solutions Dept., Waste Management spoke to the group regarding the hazardous waste and electronics collection program that collects household hazardous waste and electronics directly from residences. Residents would be mailed a heavy-duty plastic bag with handling instructions and the materials would be collected in a private box truck according to a pre-arranged appointment/schedule. Mr. Stang indicated that 85% of the collected materials are sent to be recycled. Currently there are approximately 40 municipalities in the western part of the state utilizing this service and additional programs nationwide. Based on Palmer's number of households, he estimated 15% would initially utilize the collection dropping off to approximately 7% thereafter. The program needs 13 -15 collections for a collection trip and if they don't have it, they will push out the collection date for 2 weeks. They only push back one time and then will collect regardless of the number. There would be a standard contract for unlimited collections per resident.

Dittmar commented that the Borough of Wilson (the only municipality in the eastern region of PA with this program) indicated that their residents have reported mixed reviews on the program.

Oatis commented on Senate Bill 800 which would repeal the current CDRA Act and would require all counties in Pennsylvania have electronics collection sites. Manufacturers would participate in the recycling and costs associated with this program as they currently do. This model is more in alignment with other county-run collection programs nationwide. She will obtain an update on this bill for the next meeting.

Currently, there are several DEP/NH County/municipal sponsored collection drop-off events held each a year. The cost of these events are broken down as follows: 50% of the cost is funded by the PA DEP; residents pay a fee for the items they drop off; the remainder is subsidized by participating municipalities and has historically averaged under \$100 per municipality, per year. Dittmar commented that the attendance at these events has been consistent, and that our residents have become accustomed to these events. He believes that based on his experience, drop-off programs are likely to be far more cost effective than the curbside programs.

All agreed that there would be significant benefits to this type of program but their recommendation would depend on state options; whether or not the program truly has an impact on illegal dumping, and on receiving more information regarding program cost. Due to lack of a quorum, the issue will be tabled for discussion at the April meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2018 - tabled to April meeting due to lack of a quorum.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Tire Disposal –
 - i. The previous issue of tires being stored at a resident's home has been resolved.
 - ii. Oatis will speak with T. Adams regarding the possibility of tire storage, if required, for future events.
 - iii. Earth Stewards group will prepare proposal for a more long-term resolve to this issue and submit to Oatis.
- B. Recycling Event – Starace will send out email requesting volunteers for the upcoming recycling event.
- C. Local Bird Habitat Education – Starace will arrange for a speaker on this topic for our April meeting.
- D. Environmental Education for ESC Members – Members will forward educational opportunities to Oatis for submission.
- E. Environmental Education for Children – Discussion regarding topics and locations for summer educational programs included vacation bible schools, summer camps, Palmer Kiwanis Newsletter, etc.
- F. Christmas Trees to Promote Baitfish Habitats – The committee is in agreement that while this may be an exciting effort, it may not have an application in our area. Tabled for discussion at our next meeting.

5. UPDATES/REPORTS

- A. Recycling Report – Oatis will be submitting the 2018 902 Recycling Grant
- B. Earth Day Litter Collection Report – Starace reported that all information has been dropped off to all churches, youth groups, etc.; we appear to have adequate supplies including refreshments, tools, banners, etc.
- C. MS4 Report – Smith has drafted a core PowerPoint presentation which she will now adjust to be geared more toward kids and another one for adults. She will submit same for review to T. Adams and the committee at the April meeting.
- D. Supervisor Report –Panella reported that Bushkill Conservancy came to the board of supervisors meeting regarding a grant application for creek restoration and habitat enhancement. The Board agreed to provide a letter of support for the grant.

6. NEXT MEETING: April 25, 2018

- 7. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn was made by Starace, seconded by Dittmar and approved by all.

Submitted by C. Oatis