

Minutes of Lower Providence Environmental Advisory Council Meeting – July 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM. Council members Amber Minnick, Jeff Scott, Laura Winslow, and John Zollers were present. Ms. Minnick served as Chair.

1. Approval of Minutes. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting, seconded by Ms. Winslow, which passed 4-0.

2. Old Business

- a. 1. Ms. Minnick noted that social media posts on EAC accounts are being made. Potential EAC posts should be sent to Erin McCool or Ms. Minnick for posting.
- a.2. Ms. Winslow gave a summary of the fishing derby at Hoy Park, which she deemed to be a success. Approximately 33 kids attended ranging from 4 – 12 years in age. Among the fish caught were bass, trout, sunfish, carp, ranging from 3-inches to 12-inches in length. The abundance (quantity and type) of fish caught is a hopeful sign of improving water quality.
- a.3. Mr. Zollers noted survival of three (3) hickory seedlings planted in Eagleville Park after two years. Hickory trees are an important native tree species, and a native species that is notoriously difficult to transplant.
- b. Ms. Minnick noted that at the second Board of Supervisors meeting in September, Lower Providence will officially be named a “Bird Town”.
- c. Ms. Winslow advised that a tour of the sewage treatment plant can be scheduled at essentially anytime during regular business hours for up to 15 people. Ms. Winslow will recommend some dates to schedule a tour and invite the Sewer Authority board as well.
- d. Ms. Winslow met with ___ to discuss plastic bag ordinances templates. Ms. Winslow recommended a gradual phase in of a plastic bag ban (as compared to West Norriton Township) and suggested a number of outreach techniques to prepare local businesses. Ms. Winslow recommended that ideally the ordinance would pass in the fall and take effect after the Christmas holiday shopping season, perhaps February 1. Mr. Scott suggested reusable bags as stocking-stuffers under this scenario. Ms. Winslow also suggested allowing plastic bags to continue be used but with a fee to discourage unnecessary use (\$0.10 to \$0.15 each). Ms. Winslow and Mr. Scott will continue to discuss proposed details.

3. New Business. Planning committee for Fall Festival still needed. Mr. Zollers to check with Erin McCool as to whether space has been discussed with the Parks & Recreation Department.

4. Comments and Other Business.

Ms. Winslow attended the second presentation on Moyer’s Landfill. It is not clear if PFAS in the landfill leachate is being treated when it reaches the sewage treatment plant. Some wells in the vicinity of Moyer’s Landfill tested for high levels of PFAS. More properties will be tested in the near future. The EPA is paying for remediation (treatment) of well water that is found to be high

in PFAS. Ms. Minnich and Ms. Winslow will help advertise future meetings on this topic via social media.

Denise Walsh requested an article for the Lower Providence newsletter which is due by August 4 for late September delivery. Tentative topic is Bird Town – Ms. Minnick is looking for inputs on various topics.

Friends of Worcester is hosting a meeting on stormwater management for homeowners on Thursday July 20 @ 7:00 at Worcester Community Hall.

Ms. Winslow is leading additional tree-planting Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 7:30 and looking for volunteers for that project and future projects. Ms. Minnick will discuss tree-planting projects with the Bird Town Subcommittee.

5. Courtesy of the Floor.

Resident Eileen Million advised that Nextrex offers recycling programs whereby communities can earn a free bench (<https://nextrex.com/view/programs>). She also related an incident where neighbors cut down all the trees in their backyard and laid down sod that came with with (apparently non-biodegradable) blue netting plastic which persists long-term. She asked if it would be possible to restrict the use of such netting.

6. Adjournment. Ms Winslow made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Zollers and passed 4-0.