

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 17th 6:00pm**

Call to Order: Chairperson Erin McCool called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairperson Erin McCool, EAC Members Joseph Lulis, Doug White, and John Zollers.
- b. Also in attendance was Gary Neights, Board of Supervisors Liaison, Irene Biju, student representative. EAC member Patrick Duffy was absent. Student representative Charlie Wang was absent.

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. **MOTION:** Joe Lulis made a motion to approve the December 2021 meeting minutes. John Zollers seconded the motion. The motion *passed 4-0*.
- b. John Zollers made a motion to approve Douglas White as recording secretary. Joe Luis seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0

2. Old Business

- a. **Introduction of new members:**
Chairperson McCool introduced Douglas White, new board member and Student Rep, Irene Bijou. Student representative Charlie Wang was absent.
- b. **Stormwater Directive from Board of Supervisors:**
Patrick Duffy was absent and there was no update. Supervisor Neights indicated that he had not seen a report or presentation to date. Chairperson McCool indicated that she would create a report based on information provided by EAC members and circulate for approval at the February meeting.
- c. **Review of workplan for previously agreed upon projects**
Chairperson McCool led a review of the previous workplan, established in early 2021. There was a discussion around specific projects that should be revisited and Chairperson McCool indicated she would create an updated draft for approval at the February 21st 2022 meeting. Projects discussed included:

Energy use and carbon footprint: Recognition of Electric Car show week. National Electric Car show week is Sept 23rd-October 2nd, 2022.

Ecological Restoration: Progress included tree planting at Eskie Park. John Zollers indicated that tree planting for residents is a good idea but he would approach it differently from distribution of seedlings, which is what we did at Earth Day. He expressed interest in finding ways for residents to plant larger trees. They would pre-register for a program that helps to support planting and ongoing maintenance to increase the survival rate of trees.

Supervisor Neights suggested that we keep an eye out for grants that can support ecological restoration and also address township priorities like storm water and connectivity.

- d. **Update on Road Salt Project:** John Zollers reported on his concerns and importance of addressing the use of road salt and its impacts on waterways and ecosystems. There was a discussion about the previous idea to reach out to Lower Providence Business Association and John would connect with Pat Duffy to follow up on this initiative. Additionally, John expressed interest in meeting with the new township manager to learn more about how salt is currently used in the township.
- e. **Update on Curated Resource Library:** Joe Lulis provided an update on this initiative and indicated that he would circulate resources prior to the February meeting for approval by EAC members. If we would like materials in the next newsletter, the deadline for submission is April 8th
- f. **Update on reusable bag initiative:** Pat Duffy was absent so this discussion was tabled until the February meeting.
- g. **Update on Green Sustainability awards:** Pat Duffy was absent so this discussion was tabled until the February meeting.

3. New Business

A. EAC structure and subcommittee discussion.

Chairperson McCool proposed a subcommittee structure and there was a discussion about what this could look like. It was recommended that we organize subcommittees under broad concepts and that each committee should have clear tasks with specific outcomes. Possible subcommittees could include energy use and electrification, open space, ecological restoration and Ready for 100. It was also suggested that we look at how other successful EACs are structured. Chairperson McCool agreed to propose a list of subcommittees for discussion and approval at the February meeting.

B. Presentation: Indianhead Watershed Association Fishing Derby

Jan Beck and Laura Winslow from the Indianhead Association presented information regarding the Fishing Derby Event on June 18th, 2022. The event has been successful in the past and they asked for support from the EAC. Chairperson McCool and Joe Lulis both offered to volunteer for the event and bring some educational materials.

The Indianhead Watershed Association also brought up concerns regarding interpretive signage at Hoy Park. There is an existing sign that was created by scouts and identifies local fish found in the Perkiomen. They are seeking resources and guidance to create signage that tells the story of increasing floods and how this is impacting the Perkiomen Creek. There was a discussion around this topic. It was agreed that the EAC could possibly provide input to content to support this initiative. The EAC would not have the authority to place a sign in the park and so this would be a discussion with the Parks and Rec board or Township Manager.

C. Earth Day Activities Planning

There was a discussion regarding planning for recognizing Earth Day in 2022. We discussed potential partners for the event which includes LP Community Gardens, Midatlantic Audubon, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy and LP Parks and recreation. This was tabled for further discussion at the February meeting.

D. Ready for 100 Initiative

Doug White provided an update on the RF100 initiative, asked that we consider adopting a RF100 resolution and offered to lead a subcommittee on sustainability. There was a discussion around this and it was recommended that the EAC pursue recommending involvement in RF100 to the Board of Supervisors. It was unclear what current energy audits exist for the Township.

There was a motion to create a subcommittee to investigate an energy audit for the township. The motion was approved and Chairperson McCool appointed Joe Lulis and Doug White to this subcommittee. J. Lulis and D. White will come to the next meeting with specific recommendations on how to move forward with an audit. When the EAC approves these recommendations, we will send those up to the board for approval and further action.

4. Comments and Other Business

Supervisor Neights spoke regarding our future planning and indicated that he would like for the boards to play an active role in the planning of our work. We are empowered to create recommendations to bring to the board for approval.

4. Courtesy of the Floor

None

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Joe Lulis made a motion to adjourn. John Zollers seconded the motion. The motion *passed 4-0.*