

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
February 21st 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 Irene Biju, student representative. EAC member Patrick Duffy was absent. Student representative Charlie Wang was absent.

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. **MOTION:** Doug White made a motion to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes. John Zollers seconded the motion. The motion *passed 4-0*.

2. Old Business

- a. **Update from E.J. Mentry new township manager**
New Township Manager E.J. Mentry introduced himself to the EAC members. Mr. Mentry reminded the EAC of the need to sign and return the Ethics Policy Verification Form and recommended that the EAC prioritize creation of a potential project portfolio that could be used by the Township in seeking grants as the opportunity arises.
- b. **Record keeping, recording secretary**
John Zollers volunteered to serve as recording secretary, which was accepted by general assent. Chairperson McCool suggested that the EAC members take turns serving as recording secretary at future meetings.
- c. **Approval of stormwater report for BOS E. McCool**
Chairperson McCool led a review of the draft stormwater report. John Zollers noted that some information from 2021 gathered for the MS4 / Skippack Creek portion of the stormwater report was missing and he would consult his notes to supply it and that he would follow up with Township Engineer Tim Woodrow for updates. Chairperson McCool suggested that Mr. Woodrow be invited to present on / discuss the status of the Township's MS4 obligations. Doug White made a motion to approve the stormwater report in its current form for submission to the Township Board of Supervisors, which Joseph Lulis seconded and the motion *passed 4-0*.
- d. **Discussion and approval of workplan-E. McCool**
Chairperson McCool presented the current state of the EAC workplan. Doug White proposed a social media outreach endeavor under the category of Public Education to obtain additional information on what the general public of the Township is interested in with regards to the EAC and its knowledge base. Joe Lulis noted that this was explored within the Township Comprehensive Planning Process and that data could be mined for EAC purposes. Doug White further proposed that social media outreach could take the form of each member writing blog posts or taking questions within their area of expertise.

Township Manager E.J. Mentry suggested that the EAC obtain a dedicated section within the Township's seasonal newsletter as a further means of encouraging public interaction with the EAC.

Joseph Lulis made a motion to approve the workplan which was seconded by Doug White and the motion *passed* 4-0.

e. EAC Structure and subcommittee approval E. McCool

Township manager E.J. Mentry discussed some models for organizing subcommittees used by other environmental advisory councils. Various permutations of the proposed subcommittee structure were discussed, including modeling after priorities in the Township Comprehensive Plan.

John Zollers proposed a subcommittee dedicated to reviewing development plans (subdivisions, roadway projects, etc) and offering comments for the EAC and the Board of Supervisors to consider. E.J. Mentry observed this could take many forms, from simple advisory based on plan review to requiring projects be presented before the EAC prior to approval.

Chairperson McCool volunteered to update the proposed subcommittee structure based on the discussion for final approval at the March 2022 EAC meeting.

f. Update on homeowner resources-J. Lulis

Joseph Lulis presented a list of proposed homeowner resources to general assent. Township Manager E.J. Mentry offered to forward the list to Denise Walsh for posting on the Township website. Mr. Lulis agreed to work with Ms. Walsh to maintain the list going forward.

g. Update on Salt project-J.Zollers

John Zollers indicated no progress since the previous month and noted his intention to discuss the Township's winter roadway treatment protocols with Township Manager E.J. Mentry.

h. Update on reusable bag initiative-P. Duffy

Discussion was tabled due to the absence of Mr. Duffy.

i. Update on Green Sustainability awards-P. Duffy

Discussion was tabled due to the absence of Mr. Duffy.

j. Earth Day activities planning-E. McCool

The EAC Earth Day celebration is planned for the Audubon Sanctuary (Mill Grove) or Eagleville Park Sunday April 24. The Optimists Club is planning to set up a storybook trail. Possible coordination with Methacton students was discussed. John Zollers offered to set up a stream table if electric power is available, and Chairperson McCool volunteered to discuss the venue with the management of the Audubon Sanctuary with Eagleville Park as the fallback option, anticipating the likely approval of the Township Parks and Recreation Department.

k. Energy Audit-D. White and J. Lulis

E.J. Mentry noted that it appeared some level of energy audit had occurred a few years ago, and that he intended to being the process of requesting audit information from PECO in the near future as the process is relatively simple.

Doug White offered to assist with analysis of the data or to recommend consultants who could provide further analysis and aid with understanding the results of the audit.

3. New Business

A. Comprehensive plan update – J. Lulis

Joseph Lulis provided a general overview of the Township comprehensive planning process as it relates to the EAC and volunteered to provide regular updates on progress at future EAC meetings. Mr. Lulis asked the other members of the EAC to read through the draft of the Environment and Infrastructure document and offer comments, and noted that in March 2021 a Zoom workshop had been held seeking community input on this section.

4. Comments and Other Business

No comments were made.

4. Courtesy of the Floor

None

5. Adjournment

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