

## Minutes of Lower Providence Environmental Advisory Council Meeting – April 25, 2022

The meeting began at 6:00 PM. Council members Erin McCool, Joseph Lulis, Douglas White, John Zollers, and Madison Roeger were present, along with Community Development Director Mike Mrozinski.

1. Approval of Minutes. Mr. White made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2022 EAC meeting, seconded by Mr. Zollers. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Zollers offered to take the minutes of the April meeting.

### 2. **Old Business**

#### 2a. Subcommittee Reports.

Ms. McCool presented a recap of the accomplishments of the Council to date, including social media posts related to Earth Day, two Township events celebrating Earth Day in 2021 and 2022, the recruitment of three student representatives to the council, the creation of a Township homeowner resource page, an article in the Township newsletter, and a report on stormwater management conditions within the Township.

There were no updates from the Built Infrastructure Subcommittee, but there was further discussion on having development plans reviewed by the Council. Mike Mrozinski explained that development plans come through his office for distribution to Township consultants for comment, and can also be provided to the Council concurrently, with any comments / input provided back to Mr. Mrozinski's office.

Mr. White provided an update on the Township energy audit. Township Manager E.J. Mentry has requested use data from PECO, which will include review of the past 2-3 years to avoid skewed results from the shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The audit is presently targeted for completion in late summer 2022.

Ms. Roeger offered that the communications committee can help with communicating goals and benchmarks that result from the energy audit process and suggested that electric vehicle charging stations be provided at trailheads. Mr. White suggested a goal to offer charging stations at all Township facilities, including parks and Methacton schools. Ms. McCool suggested a charging station map identifying existing and future locations. Mr. Zollers inquired as to who pays for electric at charging stations; the answer varies by owner and purpose. Member of the public Julia Nakhleh pointed out that the town of Melrose, Massachusetts places chargers on utility poles.

2b. Comprehensive Plan Update. Mr. Lulis gave a brief update on the Comprehensive Planning process. There will be two sessions of a public open house on the comprehensive plan update on May 4, 2022 at the Lower Providence Fire Company Chief's Hall. Members of the public will be able to ask questions and identify issues of priority to the steering committee.

### **3. New Business**

3a. Ms. McCool noted that the Council has advertised for a new member to fill the existing vacancy. Ms. Roeger suggested an open house where prospective members / subcommittee members could speak with current members and identify common interests.

3b. Ms. McCool will be updating the Board of Supervisors on Council activities at a May meeting.

3c. A brief discussion was held on the need to fix a date for cleanup of a property the Township is tentatively acquiring along the Perkiomen Creek. Mr. Zollers noted that an earlier date will reduce the risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Further discussion was tabled.

3d. No update on waivers was provided due to the absence of Township Manager E.J. Mentry.

### **4. Comments and Other Business**

4a Ms McCool will also be presenting to the Board of Supervisors at an upcoming meeting and offered to share the presentation ahead of time for comment.

4b. Ms. McCool noted that the Council will have a table at the Hoy Park Fishing Derby set for June 3.

### **5. Courtesy of the Floor.**

Mr. White commented on and commended Pennsylvania's entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and its importance.

Mr. Mrozinski noted a proposed project to install a solar array at the Brightview Landscaping campus on Park Avenue, ultimately intended to provide power for battery-electric equipment used in the company's landscaping activities. A brief discussion ensued about the previously proposed Township sustainability award program, including the possibility of adding a fourth award to the existing Township program identifying an annual volunteer of the year, citizen of the year and business of the year.

Ms. Roeger asked about programs to address plastic waste.

Mr. Zollers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. White, which was approved 4-0.