

Minutes of Lower Providence Environmental Advisory Council Meeting – July 18, 2022

The meeting began at 6:10 PM. Council members Erin McCool, Joseph Lulis, Douglas White, John Zollers, Irene Bijou, and Madison Roeger were present.

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the June 20, 2022 meeting were approved 4-0, with Mr. Lulis making the motion for approval and Mr. White seconding.

2. **Old Business**

a) Voting on New Members. Mr. White made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lulis, to add two voting positions and two alternates to the EAC. The motion passed 4-0.

Amber Minnick provided a brief overview of her qualifications for the EAC, including noted interests in conservation and historic preservation. Township Supervisor E.J. Mentry advised Ms. Minnick of the township's ethics policy requirements. Mr. Zollers motioned to recommend Ms. Minnick for the existing unfilled position, which was seconded by Ms. McCool and passed 4-0.

Three candidates for EAC student representative, Jessica Gabell, Sarah Kim and Sameeksha Panda spoke briefly on their interest in serving on the EAC. Mr. Lulis made a motion to accept all three as student representatives, seconded by Mr. White, which passed 4-0.

b) Subcommittee Reports.

Built Infrastructure. Mr. Zollers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lulis, recommending that the EAC review development plans which come before the township and prepare comments on them for review and approval by the EAC and submission to the Board of Supervisors and other relevant boards or staff for their consideration in their own reviews of development plans. The motion passed 4-0. Mr. Mentry offered to add the members of the EAC to an e-mail distribution list of notifications of submission of new development plans.

Green Energy. Mr. White noted that the PECO energy audit is ongoing and that he has personally inspected township street lights for possible conversion to more energy efficient models. In response to a question from Mr. Zollers he noted that any new fixtures will also consider "dark sky" design goals. Mr. Lulis suggested that any cost savings resulting from new fixtures be banked to pay for other improvements.

Ms. McCool noted the availability of Pennsylvania DEP grants to pay for various energy efficiency and electric car charging infrastructure. Other ideas discussed included use of solar panel overproduction at the township public works garage, and on street light infrastructure, for electric car charging.

Education and Communication. Ms. Roeger presented some ideas for staffing a booth at Ursinus Movie Night events and having handouts available with a scannable QR code linking attendees to the EAC website.

A discussion was held about the EAC table at the township Fall Festival. Mr. Mentry and Township Supervisor Gary Neights offered to approach electric car manufacturers for a display. Mr. Zollers offered to bring a stream table to demonstrate stream dynamics.

Stormwater. Ms. McCool discussed approaches to model different concepts of aesthetics for the community through property tours and awards aimed at property owners who take a more sustainable approach to yard maintenance. Mr. White noted a nearby demonstrate site for many such techniques at Backyard Nature Preserve in Chester Springs (<https://backyardnaturepreserve.weebly.com/>).

Further discussion was held on a public stormwater presentation and gauging interest in such an event through polls and discussions at township events. Some ideas included hosting a backyard barbecue or winery event including speakers. Ms. McCool offered to speak to Mill Grove or Evansburg Vineyard about hosting such an event.

2c) Comprehensive Plan Update. Mr. Lulis noted that there is an upcoming meeting on July 20 at 7:00 PM and that the committee is now formulating recommendations and priorities for the final plan.

3. **New Business.** The presentation from Penn Future on plastic bags has been postponed. Ms. McCool asked for an EAC representative to the EAC Consortium on this topic.

4. **Comments and Other Business.** Ms. McCool spoke about new Pennsylvania education standards requiring all students to learn environmental literacy.

5. **Courtesy of the Floor.** No one requested to speak.

6. **Adjournment.** Mr. White made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Lulis. Motioned passed 4-0 and meeting was adjourned at 7:45.