

## **Minutes of Lower Providence Environmental Advisory Council Meeting – August 15, 2022**

The meeting began at 7:10 PM. Council members Joseph Lulis, Douglas White, John Zollers, Sameeksha Panda, and Sarah Kim were present. Mr. Lulis served as acting chair.

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the July 18, 2022 meeting were approved 3-0, with Mr. Lulis making the motion for approval and Mr. White seconding.

### **2. Old Business**

a) Subcommittee Reports (most reports were tabled due to the absence of the responsible Council members except those noted below)

#### **Education / Communication**

4. There was extended discussion on various approaches to green / sustainability awards, including concepts of an “honor roll” where all qualifying nominees are honored, and designation of award categories for all nominees to highlight ways in which their nomination contribute to sustainability.

#### **Built Infrastructure / Ecological Restoration**

Mr. Zollers noted his intention to finish his report on impact of deicing salt use for the September meeting. There was some general discussion of the topic including past township practices, and it was suggested that Mr. Zollers speak to Public Works Director Joe Chillano about current practices and alternatives.

#### **Green Energy**

Mr. White noted that the energy audit is continuing. Mr. White will get in touch with Parks and Recreation director Jane Delaney to discuss use of lighting in township parks.

b. Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Lulis noted that the committee is reviewing draft chapters and refining priorities. The next meeting will be September 21, 2022.

### **3. New Business.**

- a. Mr. Lulis advised that proposed budget items should be prepared for discussion at the September meeting.
- b. Mr. Lulis advised that EAC workplan items should be reviewed for end-of-year project status discussions.

4. **Comments and Other Business.** Mr. Zollers raised the issue of rare-earth mineral mining, how it is driven by high-capacity battery production and some renewable energy systems, and the issues of promoting such systems when their production drives environmentally destructive

mining in other parts of the world. Mr. White noted organizations that seek to work out such supply chain problems, including MBDC.

Mr. Lulis presented a proposed alternate route for the national 9/11 trail through Lower Providence, prompting extensive discussion of alternative routes and more generally difficulties of traveling through Lower Providence by means other than car.

**5. Courtesy of the Floor.** Resident Leah Baird noted that Wegmans has eliminated single-use plastic bags from the checkout process at their Collegeville location, and that future models of the Dodge Challenger and Charger will only be available with battery-electric drivetrains.

Supervisor Gary Neights and Mr. Lulis discussed modifying township code requirements to require electric charger infrastructure be included in new construction.

**6. Adjournment.** Mr. Zollers made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. White. Motion passed 3-0 and meeting was adjourned.