

Minutes of Lower Providence Environmental Advisory Council Meeting – September 19, 2022

The meeting began at 7:06 PM. Council members Erin McCool, Amber Minnick, Douglas White, John Zollers, and Jessica Bell were present.

1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the August 2022 meeting were approved 4-0, Mr. White making the motion for approval and Ms. Minnick seconding.

2. Old Business

a) Subcommittee Reports

Education / Communication

1. Movie Night went well and there were leftovers available to be used at the Fall Festival. Ms. Panda had made flyers and Ms. Bell a poster for the occasion, along with other materials. Ms. Minnick recommended a shorter table be used in the future so children could more easily see the available materials.

Ms. McCool noted that she had made contact with the new manager of Evansburg State Park Bethany Hare and discussed the possibility of joint stream cleanup and other events. Township resident Laura Winslow noted her participation in the recent stream trash cleanup and the prevalence of construction debris along Skippack Creek. According to Ms. McCool, Ms. Hare is well aware of the invasive species issues that plague Evansburg State Park.

The Audubon event was partially rained out but some activities went on in spite of the weather, and more are tentatively planned for future dates.

2. Discussion tabled due to the absence of Mr. Lulis, but Ms. McCool intends to discuss sustainability award further with Mr. Lulis. It was noted that an “honor roll” approach as opposed to a discrete and limited set of awards seemed to be preferred, although no formal vote was taken.

3. Discussion of DEP grants was tabled.

- 4.
- a) Mr. White will be in charge of the EV area at the Fall Festival.
 - b) Mr. Zollers will oversee the stream table display.
 - c) Ms. McCool requested that anyone else available please advise to assist with staffing at the Fall Festival.

Built Infrastructure / Ecological Restoration

Ms. McCool plans to follow up with township officials on plan to provide development plans to the EAC for comment – not clear if this has been forgotten, or no recent plans have been submitted.

Ms. Minnick discussed possibility of supporting Jean Akers and Parks & Recreation in efforts to plant trees in township parks.

Ms. Winslow noted that baby trees are available in the thousands from various sources as part of a discussion about plans by Martha's Table community gardens to plant a "riparian buffer".

Mr. Zollers will reach out to Township Supervisor Gary Neights to discuss possible presentation to Board of Supervisors on use of road salts in the township and their deleterious effects on waterways and groundwater.

Green Energy

Mr. White updated the Council on PECO's efforts to help the township understand its electric service accounts. One consultant was engaged to review the township's electrical use and recommended generally lighting improvements at the administrative building, public works facilities, street lighting, etc. It was noted that the stadium lighting at Eagleville Park already consists of efficient LED fixtures.

Other opportunities noted include installation of Level 1 electric car chargers at streetlights (where safe and appropriate to do so), and rebates to install Level 2 chargers. Ms. Winslow noted concerns about possible misuse of chargers for mischief in township parks.

Township resident Julia Nakhleh noted some other possible approaches to encouraging use of green energy, including requirements for solar aspect in new construction to maximize solar panel potential and installation of facilities for electric car chargers. Ms. Minnick noted an example of a tabletop solar charger in adjacent townships for use of residents to charge cell phones and other small items.

Stormwater - tabled

b. Comprehensive Plan Update

Tabled due to the absence of Mr. Lulis

c. Budget suggestions for new year

Obtaining a tablecloth specifically for use by the EAC (fabricated from sustainable materials) at township events was suggested.

d. Review workplan and discuss project status

Ms. McCool reminded the EAC to review the workplan for discussion.

3. New Business.

Ms. Winslow suggested the EAC develop a group e-mail account for residents to use. The suggestion came up in the context of the EPA's recent review of the status of the Moyer's Landfill

superfund site (see below) and the apparent lack of attention paid to it, including leaks of contamination resulting from the intense rainfall of Hurricane Ida.

4. Comments and Other Business. Ms. McCool noted that Colleen Falicki, who had previously presented to the EAC on composting, has seen her company grow since the presentation, and it may be more feasible to revisit the notion of curbside collection of compost.

5. Courtesy of the Floor. Ms. Winslow noted her preparation of a speech on the status of Moyer's Landfill and summarized the most important points, ending with a recommendation that the EAC follow up with PADEP / EPA

Ms. Winslow also suggested some projects for Hoy Park, including ways to increase public awareness and knowledge of Skippack Creek, including markings in the parking lots with river heights, a flood gage, and a display board, and intends to develop the concepts some more for future discussion with the EAC.

Ms. Nakhleh also recommended requiring provision of eight (8) connection wires for thermostats in the township to ease upgrading of thermostats to more sophisticated equipment.

6. Adjournment. Ms. Minnick made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. McCool, which passed 4-0.