

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
July 19, 2021 – 6:00pm**

Call to Order: Chairman Duffy called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. There was a slight delay due to technology that was quickly resolved.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- a. The following members were in attendance: Chairman Patrick Duffy, EAC Members Leah Baird, Erin McCool, and John Zollers.
- b. Also in attendance were: Colleen Eckman, Board of Supervisors Liaison and Geraldine Spotts, Assistant Township Manager.

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. **MOTION:** Mr. Zollers made a motion to approve the June 21st, 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Baird seconded the motion. The motion *passed 4-0*.

2. Presentation:

Colleen Falicki, owner of Back to Earth Compost company gave a presentation on her company which provides support for clients in composting, primarily food scraps. Back to Earth composting can provide curbside composting, drop off locations and commercial composting.

There was a short discussion about next steps and how we can work with Back to Earth in the future. The presentation including her contact information will be publically posted on the EAC website.

There was some discussion regarding the LP community gardens and the possibility of partnering to include the gardens as a drop/pick up location or venue for community engagement.

One local business, Starbucks has expressed interest in composting their kitchen scraps.

3. New/Old Business

- a. Storm Water Directive from Board of Supervisors – Ms. Baird reported that she has met with Interim Public Works Director Joe Chillano and Mike Mrozinski. They have determined all but 15-20% of piping has been mapped.

Piping that has been mapped includes 87 sections that received the worst rating (4). This is mostly corrugated metal and in danger of failing. This represents 11,356 linear of pipe and would cost an estimated \$2.25 million to replace.

Patrick Duffy suggested she go back to the township and find out what it would cost to map the other 20% of infrastructure. Some of this is new infrastructure that has not been added yet and some is older infrastructure that would need to be found and mapped.

There was a discussion about the piping that is being mapped and how it relates to the MS4 requirement. The piping infrastructure does not directly impact our MS4 requirement, however if a pipe fails, it could potentially add more sediment into the waterway.

The assessment of piping is a critical need for the township to get ahead of infrastructure and make repairs or replacements before it fails. The Traisr system was purchased to support this. A question emerging from the conversation about the priority of mapping the extra 20% of infrastructure or identifying what areas directly impact the MS4 requirements.

Joe Lulis was absent but has been working to identify what areas are most impacted by storm water. While not part of the original scope, there was a discussion about identifying what, if any of those properties were related to MS4 requirements.

John Zollers noted that the major solutions to the Skippack Creek sedimentation include improving retention basins.

Colleen noted that when pulling this information together, grants can be obtained to improve infrastructure and help reach MS4 requirements. There are also federal dollars coming through the American Recovery Plan and may support storm water related projects.

We discussed education events and initiatives to support the Storm water Directive including a public engagement event at Hoy Park to include kayaking and information about watershed and projects. We discussed partnering with Parks and Rec again on this project and John would bring it up at the Parks and Rec meeting tomorrow. Pat offered to share information at that meeting as well.

b. Priorities and projects outside of storm water directive –

Patrick Duffy indicated he was working on researching green awards and would bring a proposal next week for discussion and vote.

John Zollers brought up micro-restoration projects to help restore tree canopy. He created a google aerial map which demonstrated that collectively there are 90 acres of mowed or wooded areas on public lands in the township which could benefit from restoration. These projects would be small but collectively have a net positive impact on storm water and wildlife while improving quality of greenspace. John proposed setting up a series of dates to meet and assess properties.

There was some discussion about how to fund micro-restoration projects, including grants and “adopt a plot” micro giving campaigns.

Leah provided an update on the Electric Car event. Jane from Parks and Rec has recommended creating an electric car club in the township. There was a recommendation to work with the local Auto Association or to reach out to the Methacton High School Electric Car Club.

Discussed fall volunteer dates for habitat restoration at Eagleville Park. John indicated there are volunteer days on the 3rd Saturday of every month and he would share.

We discussed creating an EAC calendar for the website. Given there are already several other calendars, we discussed perhaps merging into one to be more efficient and make it easier for

residents to know what is happening across the township. Erin will reach out to Denise to create a list of upcoming dates and discuss a community calendar.

3. Comments and other Business

- a. The EAC will continue the Zoom meetings for the remainder of the summer and look to go back to in-person meetings starting in September.
- b. We discussed doing one activity at the fall festival. Pat will reach out to Jane to secure a table.

4. Courtesy of the Floor

- a. A user named Paul Gardner came on and was clearly a hacker, broadcasting historic radio announcements. He was removed from the meeting by the host. There was no other public comment.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Baird made a motion to adjourn. Ms. McCool seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm