

**Towamencin Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the July 11, 2023 Meeting**

Present: Amy Mawby
Brett MacKay
Joseph (Joe) Meehan
Joyce Snyder, Board of Supervisors Liaison
Rory Kelley
Vanessa Gaynor

Absent: Donna Hegge

Guest: George Mullikin

1. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Opening Comments

Rory Kelley stated that we have a last minute guest, George Mullikin, here to discuss PECO Energy Audits.

3. June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Brett MacKay made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, JoeMeehan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

- a. CY 2023 Budget: The budget tracking sheet was reviewed for awareness. Amy Mawby is waiting for a final invoice for the rain garden workshop earlier this year. After accounting for that expense, there is \$1,114.28 left of the \$1,625 budget.
- b. Towamencin Day recap:
 - i. Amy Mawby provided feedback from her time staffing the EAC table during Towamencin Day.
 1. It was difficult to message what the EAC was to those who stopped by the table, especially with non-residents. Next year, it would be helpful to determine what our purpose is for being at the event and what specific information we want to share with residents.
 2. Amy observed man
 3. y popped balloons from a table with balloon animals, as well as escaped helium balloons from another. Since we advocate for environmental stewardship and do Fischer Park cleanup, the council agreed that it would be appropriate to talk to Katie Cleary in Township Special Events about

encouraging vendors to not bring balloons. That information could be included during registration. Amy volunteers to connect with Katie about that.

- ii. Currently both EAC and Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSPAC) share one tablecloth for these events. Joe Meehan stated he already reached out to Katie Cleary about obtaining a separate table cloth for OSPAC.
 - iii. Amy Mawby suggested that we could discuss at a later date whether we should purchase a feather flag for these events.
 - iv. Rory Kelley stated we should start discussing Towamencin Day in January - both theme and how to secure volunteers. Discussions about the EAC's goals over the next few months should help inform theme and purpose for being at the event.
- c. EAC Opening - Joyce Snyder stated that there is still 1 pending interview before the Board appoints a member to fill the vacant seat. Rory Kelley stated he will reach out to Colleen Ehrle, Director of Administration for the township, to reach out to pending applicants to give them an update and confirm they are still interested.

5. Upcoming Events

- a. None

6. Township updates

- a. Supervisor update: Joyce Snyder had no updates
- b. Planning and OSPAC updates
 - i. Planning Committee update provided by Brett MacKay
 - 1. At last evening's meeting, the committee received presentations by the 2 bidders for the Township Comprehensive Plan
 - 2. Electric Vehicle Charging stations
 - a. Staff is putting together an ordinance regarding EV charging stations with input from Planning Committee
 - b. There are a lot of government funding opportunities right now that can be pursued once an ordinance is in place. A completed Comprehensive Plan will assist with grant applications.
 - 3. The last public meeting was held on the Connectivity Study.
 - a. Joyce Snyder brought up the topic of ebikes and that consideration should be given as to whether they should be permitted on trails and bike paths. Per current rules, they wouldn't be permitted on trails since they are motorized. Group agreed that more research on safety should be considered.
 - ii. Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee update provided by Joe Meehan
 - 1. The Trumbauer / Valley View trail is open

2. KR2 trail is 90% complete
3. Grant was submitted to connect KR2 to Fischers
4. OSPAC is working with Penn State Extension to install native trees along newly opened Kriebel Rd trail
5. Township removed Japanese knotweed along the new Kriebel Rd trail
6. Exploring pervious parking at Fischers for event parking
7. Joyce Snyder asked if the tree nursery could be utilized for new tree plantings. Joe indicated that the trees are now too large to transplant.

7. New Business

- a. EAC short and long term goals: Discussion occurred regarding what the EAC should focus on going forward and how we could provide benefits to the township. Topics discussed included:
 - i. It is difficult to proceed with making an impact in the community if our goals do not match those of the township.
 - ii. EAC needs to have good communication with the township
 - iii. Working with township administration would help us understand current needs of township and where we can provide assistance.
 - iv. Joe Meehan offered to look through old EAC documents to see previous activities.
 - v. Examples of items to discuss with township could include meadow management (improving 'No mow' areas to remove invasives), reviewing MS4 documentation (EAC used to do this), etc.
 - vi. Rory Kelley will explore setting up time with Dave Kraynik, Township Manager, or possibly inviting him to a future EAC meeting.
- b. 2023 second half planning: Discussion occurred about whether we should hold another resident workshop, since they are well received and would fit into our budget. Composting had been mentioned previously, but Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy is not offering them this year. The Pennsylvania Resources Council does host composting workshops. Amy Mawby has a contact with them and will reach out to see if we could get one set up for the fall. If that is not doable, Amy volunteered to give a talk on native plants.
- c. EAC Committees: Will be discussed at a future meeting
- d. Fall Newsletter: Submission is due in August for October publication. Amy Mawby will write up a recap of spring events. We will also include PECO's offer for \$10 energy audit coupon for residents (see next topic)
- e. PECO Energy Audits: George Mullikin was a guest attendee, representing "Clear Results", an authorized PECO contractor that administers the PECO Energy Assessments. These are low cost, subsidized assessments PECO offers because Pennsylvania requires energy utilities to have programs to help consumers decrease electricity usage.
 - i. Auditors do a survey of homes for improvements, put together a report, and connect homeowners with contractors (HVAC, insulation installation,

- etc). Contractors are Building Performance Institute certified & trained on energy efficiency, use controlled pricing, and handle homeowner rebate.
- ii. Rory Kelley asked how Clear Results gets compensated for these audits. He wants to ensure that residents don't feel pressured into making upgrades / working with these contractors, and that Clear Results is not making these recommendations for their own financial benefit.
 - iii. George indicated that auditors are paid hourly and do not receive incentives or commission. Clear Results is paid by PECO on KWh improvements. When asked, George indicated that the KWh improvements are not included in the homeowner reports, but they could consider including them.
 - iv. There are 3 types of audits:
 - 1. Standard for \$49: 1.5 hour survey. Auditors will replace incandescent lighting to LED bulbs, smart power strips, water aerators (if the homeowner has a hot water heater), etc. free of charge.
 - 2. Electric heat for \$89: Includes addition of a blower door test for drafts and infrared scanning for leaks.
 - 3. Virtual for \$49: Same as #1, but customer walks auditor around home with virtual meeting and no onsite upgrades.
 - v. How Clear Results works with townships:
 - 1. Delivery methods:
 - a. Present at community events - spring & fall preferred
 - b. 45-60 minute workshops aimed at residents (this provides more engaged leads)
 - c. Posting information to a website / newsletter
 - 2. Discounts for residents
 - a. Sometimes offers complete waiver of fee for events or workshops where resident schedules an assessment on the spot
 - b. \$10 off coupon provided for website / newsletter
 - vi. On an unrelated note, George mentioned he is on Doylestown's EAC and they are looking for advice on how to implement a climate change plan for their municipality. Towamencin EAC said he could reach out with any questions in regards to what we learned when going through the Clean Energy Resolution process.
 - vii. The EAC discussed the best way to push this information to township residents. Preferred methods would be township newsletter, township email, and trying to connect Clear Results with condo associations.
- f. EAC Fall Gathering - October 21st West Chester University: To discuss more at next meeting

8. **Adjournment**

Rory Kelley motioned to end the meeting. Brett MacKay seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next EAC meeting will be held on August 8, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Gaynor
EAC Committee