West Pikeland Township

Environmental Advisory Council

9/10/2024 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Mike Leader, Glenn Wenger, John Mathews and Sarah Newman

1. Call to order: 7:32 PM
2. Agenda was approved after Conserve PA Lightening Round information on next CEPT phase for 2025 added to New Business.
3. Minutes from August 6, 2024 were approved.
4. Public Comment: none
5. Committee Rep. updates:

**Bryan:** BOS- HYS Open House on Oct. 20- $2000 will be used from the EAC budget. Bryan is working with Tim and Jess (events coordinator) at HYS. There will be 30 booths- music, food and sustainable info. Bryan will contact Back to Earth Composting to have a booth at the event. The budget for EAC has been submitted to BOS for $6700.00.

**Glenn**: Open Space- No meeting this month

**Sarah:** Parks and Rec-Disk Golf Course- Budget was discuss for the HYS Open House and they are budgeting $500.00 for a booth. Extra add-ons of $500.00 that will be shared with EAC. Did not discuss moving two holes that are located in the wetlands to the conservation area near the weather station up on the hill. Nancy Bartley will provide native shrubs between the new playground and golf holes to prevent the disks from flying into the playground. They discussed the hay contract at Walnut Lane Park. Judd is moving from WPT and resigning from Parks n Rec.

1. New Business
2. Sustainable Saturdays (Solar and Batteries)- Bryan: Will occur on Sept. 21 at 10:30 AM at CS Library. Bryan will provide a flyer for Melissa to add to the WPT Newsletter. Add the Globe symbol to all EAC posts. There have been 120 views on the WPT website Facebook events calendar. Bryan will focus on what someone will need to have a solar system in their home and how to use a battery backup with the solar system. Shopping for an installation company- since the EAC is part of the local government, we cannot push companies. Bryan will provide the company he used, Solar States Co., but will provide a resource link for their own search. The participants can contact EAC members as private citizens for recommendations.
3. Tree Planting Maintenance (wood stakes and zip ties)- Sarah: The money that was budgeted for the wood stakes and zip ties has been spent. Sarah has been taking these from dead trees and reusing them. If there is any money left over in our 2024 budget in November, Sarah will have a list and cost of products to present to the BOS to use the rest of the money in the budget.
4. EAC Ordinance Changes - Sarah: Joe changed a lot of the EAC Ordinances. For example- in order to streamline the processes to get things done faster, Joe would like to have the EAC to go thru him instead of the BOS approving small money requests. If he does not approve a request, we can still go thru the BOS. Sarah would like to to change the word “power” to “responsibilities.” Bryan will schedule a meeting with Joe to go over the changes he made and find out how much money he is thinking for the small purchase requests.
5. Solar ordinance Feedback Review- Bryan: 9 items to cover. 1) Residential open space installation. There is no community solar allowed in PA. Solar PSES which consists of large 20 acre arrays providing energy back to the grid, but cannot exceed 50 kw. In the future when a new housing development is being designed, concentrate the housing in one area of the plot and a communal solar array on another area. 2) Schools/Commercial and solar arrays- need to spend more time on this topic. 3) Agricultural use around solar arrays- Vegetation under and around the panels- crops/livestock/use native plants. 4) Historical structures- the arrays need to be back from the structures at least 150 ft. 6) Have safety lights on timers. 7) Permit approval before power purchase agreement. 8) Front yard solar panels- need screening such as native shrubs.
6. Invasive Olive Removal Project at Pine Creek Park- Sarah: It went well with just 7 people. Only ½ of the trees were removed. Need to reschedule to cut down the rest of the trees. Looking at October 13. Spike did apply the herbicide the next day.
7. Old Business.
8. Youth Associate Member Application/Interview questions- Sarah- Everyone read over the handout and will discuss at next meeting..
9. Pine Creek Park Invasive Remediation plan update- Glenn: Will discuss at next meeting. Glenn will get the information to Joe and have the item put on the BOS July 15th agenda.
10. Topic for WPT Next Newsletter- Bryan: Announce the HYS Open House in October..
11. Tip of the Day for next WPT Newsletter- Leave the leaves while doing Fall cleanup around your house.
12. Solar Ordinance Request- Bryan: Will present at next meeting. Need to coordinate with surrounding townships.
13. Announcements: Next meeting is October 1, 2024 at 7:30.
14. Adjourn: 8:37 PM

Action Items:

1. Bryan- Contact Back to Earth Composting for a booth at the HYS Open House.
2. Bryan- See if he can find a reference link for local Solar Installers.
3. Sarah- Write up a list and cost for the Stakes and Zip Ties needed to complete the tree planting maintenance. Bring to October’s meeting.
4. Bryan- Schedule a meeting with Joe to discuss the changes Joe made to the EAC Ordinances (find out the amount of money Joe would like to approve instead of going thru the BOS).
5. **All EAC Members**- Read over the Youth Associate Member Application/Interview Questions Handout from Sarah. At the October’s meeting would like to discuss this in detail. .
6. Bryan- Topic for Newsletter- HYS Open House.
7. Glenn- Tip of the Month- Leave the Leaves for Fall Clean up.