

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION (ESC) MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Willistown Environmental Sustainability Commission came to order at 7:02 at the Willistown Township Building on 688 Sugartown Road, Malvern, PA.

Members present: Bruce Hartlein, Susan Vogel, Mark Angelo, Ken Lehr and Karl Malessa
Township Staff: Jennifer Jacobs

Old Business

- The Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Reports on shredding and chipping events:
 - Karl reported that the shredding event went very smoothly with two trucks for the first time. Traffic flow was very good..no long lines.
 - The chipping event on the prior weekend, however, was not well attended.
 - The light attendance at the chipping event was curious given bad weather that preceded the event and the fact that events last year were canceled due to COVID. The Township has stopped sending out the Crier via US Mail and only goes out to those who sign up for it on the Township website. So, we may want to send out a postcard in the Spring.
 - It was decided that we should do shredding in the Spring, hold off on chipping in Spring until we see how bad winter weather is and only hold e-Waste once per year.
 - For eWaste, consider adding back metals.
 - We also may want to advertise timing of other events (including County HW events) and other resources like malvernrecycling.com which will let people know where to recycle between events. Bruce suggested that we track attendance at events.
- Susan submitted comments to Guidelines for Growth before the deadline at end of October.

New Business

- Susan has a potential new member. He was supposed to attend meeting tonight but he had a conflict so we are going to do a Zoom interview on Nov 18 or Dec 2 with Susan, Bruce and Ken.
- We contacted Patti Lynn by phone during the meeting to discuss our ideas for the Zero Waste initiative grant. The ideas included:
 - some sort of clearinghouse for extra food that could be contributed to the food bank,
 - the distribution of reusable leftover containers for use in restaurants, and
 - composting education along with a kitchen size compost container.The first idea was rejected because logistics were too complicated (although Ken had an idea about doing twice a year cupboard clean-out—he is going to work on that). The other two ideas may be workable, especially the leftover container idea. There was quite a bit of discussion around that idea and Patti seemed to like it the best. We could run an education event at a local restaurant, have a meal, and give out Township branded containers at the end of the event. Could be run several times per year. We will discuss further and resubmit application(s) for grant sometime after the new year.
- Patti is running a virtual event on No 17 through Exton library regarding reducing holiday waste. Patti also mentioned the *foodkeeper* app that tells you how long food will last before going bad.

- Bruce brought up that Republic does not have a calendar for leaf pickup and website is confusing. Mark said Blosenski sent out a card with dates. Bruce to follow up with Republic.
- There will be no meeting in December.

- **Citizen's Comments:** Jiali attended and added to the discussion about composting. She says she uses worm composting (red wigglers) with a lot of success.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Willistown Environmental Sustainability Commission will be held on January 11, 2022 at 7:00 at the Township Building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Hartlein, Secretary