

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION (ESC) MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Willistown Environmental Sustainability Commission came to order at 7:04 pm at the Willistown Township Building on 688 Sugartown Road, Malvern, PA.

Members present: Susan Vogel, Bruce Hartlein, Karl Malessa, Ken Lehr, Jeff Richards and Keith Parsons

Township Staff: Jennifer Jacobs

### Old Business

- The Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved.
- ESC did a recap of the Poseidon Zero Waste event. It was suggested that the presentation should be shorter next time. Susan is talking to San Nicola about hosting the next event. The group agreed that a larger event like the spring/summer Greentree Park event would get to a larger audience and perhaps one that isn't already attuned to environmental matters in their daily lives. Jen will confirm the date. We will need a table, signage and some educational materials for that event. We would do a giveaway of the recyclable leftover containers at that event. We have spent \$2,706 of the \$3,000 grant, mostly on the containers. So, we will have a spring/summer table at the spring/summer Greentree event and then have a fall event at San Nicola (to be confirmed) in the fall.
- Jeff Richards led a brainstorming session to come up with vision and mission statements for ESC. Jeff will circulate a draft for others to comment on and we will finalize in the April meeting.

### New Business

- Assignments were made for the April recycling events as follows: 4/1 Chipping: Bruce and Karl; 4/15 eWaste: Jeff and Keith; 4/29 Shredding: Karl and Susan.
- Susan proposed a field trip for the group to CRDC Global in York, PA. This is a company that recycles all kinds of plastic waste and converts it to building materials. She is targeting a Friday in May for a tour.
- We discussed the single use plastic bag ban that is going into effect this month in Tredyffrin and whether it makes sense for us to propose a similar ban in Willistown. The group was divided on whether it was worth the effort given how few retailers there are within our township.
- Resident Zach Leahan made a presentation to ESC over Zoom on the topic of native plants. The thrust of Zach's presentation is what other townships are doing to promote native species and what Willistown should consider. The ideas include: having native species be specifically incorporated into the township's land development requirements, implementing native species requirements on all township owned properties, considering a giveaway of native trees to interested residents, and including more information about native species on the Township's website. ESC appreciated the presentation and will consider the recommendations.

**Citizens Comments:** Lewis (Beau) Pettinos was present and brought up several items, including that we should consider the bag ban, even if it is more symbolic given the lack of retailers in the Township; he recommended tours of waste facilities and asked if residents could come along on ESC sponsored trips.

**Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Willistown Environmental Sustainability Commission will be held on April 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Township Building.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Hartlein, Secretary