

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION (ESC) MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 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 April meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Event Recap: Karl gave a recap of the Shredding Event. He reported that activity was steady despite bad weather and a competing event in Malvern borough. 4.31 tons were shredded compared to the last event when 3.4 tons were shredded. Karl received approval from ESC to schedule a fall event on November 7, 9-12. We discussed the other events and decided that shredding will be spring and fall and the E-Waste and chipping will be once a year in the spring. Jen said that the chipping events are expensive and Bill Hagan of Public Works said that they could handle it with just Township employees and rent one chipper versus hiring a vendor to bring in two chippers and supplement with Township Public Works employees. ESC thought that was a good idea and would not lead to excessive waiting given activity at the last few events.
- Plastic Bag Ban: Susan sent a memo to the BOS asking them if they want to modify our ordinance to ban plastic bags. Someone noted that the Tredyffrin ban includes polystyrene.
- ESC Mission/Vision Statements: Jeff reviewed the Vision and Mission Statements that we have been working on. They were approved unanimously by ESC and are as follows:

Vision Statement: The Environmental Sustainability Commission of Willistown Township empowers our constituency so that our township may become the model for environmental stewardship for the ultimate realization of a circular economy and a healed planet.

Mission Statement: The Environmental Sustainability Commission of Willistown Township's devoted volunteers facilitate conversation, provide education, and offer engagement in both individual and systemic environmental advocacy. We honor our heritage of recycling while addressing the complex social and economic environmental concerns of Willistown Township.

New Business

- Field Trip: Susan has confirmed a field trip for June 9 to CRDC York, PA. Jen can drive and others are welcome to drive separately. Meet at Township building at 8:30 for tour at 10am.
- Summer Zero Waste Event: ESC confirmed a table at Greentree On-Tap event on June 27. Keith suggested we do a survey and get email addresses in exchange for the giveaway take-out

boxes. In lieu of handing out paper we can do an easel with some fast facts. Jen can provide QR code to use to access survey and more detailed info on recycling and food waste. Susan, Keith and Bruce will attend. Details will be finalized in our June meeting.

- Chesco Climate Action Team Event: Keith attended the event and gave a summary. He distributed some materials from the event including a Native Plant List, Guidelines for Recycling in Your Community from PADEP, the Chester County Climate Action Plan, information about lawns and a pamphlet from Chester County Planning Commission. Keith will continue to be a liaison with the Climate Action Team.
- Bruce brought up a growing volunteer organization called Repair Cafe (repaircafe.org). They fix things so they don't get thrown out. They are in Downingtown and Phoenixville and run events periodically with volunteer experts to handle repairs. We will follow this and look for upcoming events to promote.
- Single Hauler Trash: Susan would like to confirm October 5 at General Wayne for the single hauler information session to be presented by Patti Lynn. Jen to book it.
- Ordinance - There is no further word on the ordinance at this time.

Citizens Comments:

Steven and Laura Armstrong asked us to explain "single hauler." Also asked what we could do to bring in younger generation. ESC said we are open to ideas from Steven and continued participation to help us connect with younger people.

Julie Frissora asked about the fall event to present single hauler to the public. Susan explained that Patti Lynn will make the presentation about single haulers. It will be an information session followed by Q&A.

Henry Yordan suggested that we talk to Easttown about their trash hauling. Their single hauler has a \$100 per quarter fee but also does pickup on long driveways for \$233 per quarter, which he felt was reasonable. He wants to make sure we make sure long driveway residents are treated fairly if the Township does decide to go single hauler.

Zachary Leahan-asked for an update on his suggestion to update Township ordinance to require use of native plants, shrubs and trees. Jen said that it is on her list but has not been addressed yet. Also reiterated his suggestion from the last meeting about considering a native tree giveaway. Susan said we would consider it in spring or fall of 2024.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Willistown Environmental Sustainability Commission will be held on June 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Township Building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Hartlein, Secretary