

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION (ESC) MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2022 AT 6:00 PM

The rescheduled meeting of the Willistown Environmental Sustainability Commission came to order at 7:10 at the Willistown Township Building on 688 Sugartown Road, Malvern, PA.

Members present: Ken Lehr, Karl Malessa, Jeff Richards, Susan Vogel

Township Staff: Jennifer Jacobs

Township Residents: Keith Parson; Liz Tankel and Zach Leahan via Zoom

Old Business

- The Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Karl confirmed that the spring shredding event would be held with one truck on Saturday, June 11, from 9 a.m. till noon. Jennifer confirmed (5/13) that Dave Egan from Public Works would be present, along with a police officer to help direct traffic. Members Karl Malessa, Ken Lehr, Jeff Richards and Susan Vogel agreed to be there for the event. Susan will capture email addresses as residents come through the line.

New Business

- Susan presented an overview of the KRF Environmental proposal for a contract to provide a new Recycling Ordinance and Educational materials. The commission voted unanimously to proceed with recommending this proposal to be approved by the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on May 23. The timeline provided by the consulting group is aggressive, and therefore it is essential that we receive approval as soon as possible.
- We decided to reconvene as a group on Zero Waste Initiatives at the next meeting, and agreed to consider what an educational event involving a reusable take-home container at a dining or other venue within the township may look like, as that idea seemed to be the best received in initial consultation with Patti Lynn at the CCSWA.
- Three township constituents were in attendance: Liz Tankel and Zach Leahan (via Zoom) and Keith Parson (in person).

Citizen's Comments:

- Zach Leahan presented several ideas for our consideration:
 - Green Teams, e.g., Tredyffrin Twp, Phoenixville sponsor environmental initiatives such as a rain garden at Paoli Library and a Repair Café in Phoenixville.
 - YouTube Channel, e.g., North Coventry Twp., providing educational videos for residents, for example: ESC presents "Planting Native Plants," and other uses. He wondered if that would be something Willistown Township would consider for educating constituents.
 - There is a decline of native species and wildlife and a huge knowledge gap among constituents regarding the symbiotic relationship between birds, bees and insects and

- native plants. We discussed Pollinator Pathways as an area we have already discussed, and which we will put on the agenda to revisit.
- Zach also mentioned that there are three area garden shops specializing in native plants. He and resident Liz Tankel discussed educating our neighbors about native plant meadows and turning yards into meadows.
 - Resident Keith Parson asked about the grass height ordinance and Jennifer said that the maximum allowed is 10” in height. Keith also mentioned that there is a movement called “No-Mow May,” an effort aimed at giving birds a chance to capture insects before the summer season begins.
 - Zach also shared that he and some others have created a website called ChooseNativePlants.com, featuring 1,000 native plants with identifying photos.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Willistown Environmental Sustainability Commission will be held on June 14, 2022 at 7:00 at the Township Building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Vogel, Chair