

Borough of Mechanicsburg
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
June 6, 2006

EAC Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Council: Ryder, McDermott and Humes

EAC Members: Ronald Santo, Glen Weber, Erin Arva, Harry Baker, Susan Richards, Sara Nicholas, Cese Viti

Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Minutes accepted as provided.

Report of Recycling Committee

- The Recycling Committee reported plans for recycling collection during Jubilee Day.
- The Borough plans to seek grant money to purchase recycling containers for the downtown area.
- Replacement of the Recycling Committee chairperson has not yet been discussed.

Guests/Public Comment

- Two guests were in attendance to discuss concerns related to the Hess Farm development.
- Donna Morelli of Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, a non-profit environmental organization that had collaborated in writing the coldwater conservation plan for Cedar Run., a tributary of the Yellow Breeches. Ms. Morelli had been invited by Sara Nicholas to speak to the EAC regarding the importance of Cedar Run's headwaters which include the Hess Farm property. Ms. Morelli stressed that headwaters have a significant impact on the health of an entire water body and that scientific evidence points to the importance of all parts of stream to the maintenance of stream health. She also urged consideration of the stream as an important area resource.
- Sally Holbert of Land Logic Group was also invited by Ms. Nicholas to discuss Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) concepts and her involvement in designing a similar development. She is a landscape architect and had been involved in the Hess Farm Charette. Ms Holbert described several landscape design features that have environmental merit in new developments including designing for street trees, narrower streets to reduce paved areas, wet ponds, and rain gardens.
- Harry Baker discussed some of the constraints in street size design including minimum street width requirements for trash and fire trucks.
- Mr. Baker will let the EAC know when the draft stormwater plan is submitted by the Planning Commission.

- The Planning Commission is developing a new comprehensive plan for the Borough. During the Commission's working session, the 4th Tuesday of each month, the Commission will discuss the comprehensive plan.
- The EAC agreed that we should have an EAC representative at each working session to keep the Council up-to-date.

Correspondence

- The EAC agreed to consider recommendation of bio-fuels for Borough vehicles. Susan Richards agreed to take the lead on research.

Old Business

- Newspaper bag disposal – Erin Arva has submitted an item for the Borough newsletter regarding the problem.
- Water Policy News subscription ordered. Publication is quarterly so may not arrive for a month or two.
- Rubber sidewalks – EAC recommended that information be sent to the Borough engineer for consideration (Richards/Weber). Glen Weber will send documents on the product.
- EAC Network – Sara Nicholas reported that a representative from PEC will attend an EAC meeting in a month or so.

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting July 6, 2006