

Borough of Mechanicsburg
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
September 5, 2006

The EAC meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Attendance

Council: Charles Ryder

EAC Members: Susan Richards, Sara Nicholas, Erin Arva, Glen Weber, Cese Viti

Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Glen amended the minutes to read "...Anna Breinich of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council..."

Susan moved to accept minutes/Cese seconded/motion passed.

Old Business

- *Glenda presented a Borough Update on recycling grants and miscellaneous projects.
- *EAC decided to submit a pertinent article for every Borough Newsletter, and Cese will ask the Recycling Committee if they are interested in participating.
- *Erin will draft a proposal for contents of an EAC page for the Borough website, perhaps to include, in addition to items like minutes, a "hot topic" of the month.
- *Councilman Ryder reported that a police officer trained in examining trucks for violations has been monitoring and ticketing violators of the borough's "No 53 footers" rule.
- *Glenda reported the Rubber Sidewalk Proposal has been submitted to Steve Barber, the Borough Engineer.
- *EAC members are encouraged to attend Planning Commission meetings, but no set schedule will be created.
- *Cese will check EAC Network and DEP websites monthly to see what's new in grants.
- *Glenda reported on bio-diesel grants and techniques to ease transitions of vehicles to bio-diesel fuel. Sara volunteered to help Glenda investigate a DEP grant for bio-diesel use reimbursement for a grant dead lined Oct.2, 2006.
- *Susan will archive EAC materials: agendas, minutes, budgets, correspondence: Glenda will provide a binder

New Business

- *Erin reviewed the draft budget for fiscal 2007: EAC decided to request \$1000 to cover expenses of travel/conferences.
- *Glenda reported 904 Grant monies of approximately \$6,000 still in the education fund of the Recycling Committee.
- *Susan will follow up with a Mechanicsburg Middle School teacher to generate interest in kids' painting recycling containers. EAC commented on the poor condition of the refuse containers downtown and the prospect of purchasing new covers to doll them up a bit.

Glenda explained that recycling containers now under consideration will be constructed of "past consumer content."

*Glen reported on his visit to a rubber sidewalk site and exhibited a square of the material made from recycled rubber tires. Glen also reported on his approach to an officer of PCN Bank downtown to ascertain if the bank would fund or help fund an experimental block of rubber sidewalk outside their front entrance. Susan moved that EAC ask the Recycling Committee to consider using their \$6,000 education fund to help defray the cost of installation. Sara seconded/the motion passed.

Glen volunteered to draft a letter of request to PNC to be submitted first to Council for their approval and comment. A sign explaining the virtues of rubber sidewalks and the purpose of the experimental blocks would be somehow attached to the site. EAC believes such a pioneer experimental block would draw interest and put Mechanicsburg on the eco map locally and nationally.

*Susan reported on alternative energy wind power source grants: a starting point being to ask how the wind system is working for East Pennsboro where a grant is already in place and then to approach Council to assess their interest in such alternatives to power our waste water facility. Glen suggested checking out solar as well. Sara will contact EP and Penn Future for further information on wind power.

*Erin will ask Glenda for a summary of energy use relative to the waste water plant.

*Susan suggested investigating the DEP Water Shed Weekly updates to be found at www.pawatershed.org.

*Glen proposed EAC join the EAC Network, dues \$75/year.

*Glen announced a September 21, 7 pm meeting in Silver Springs featuring an arborist.

*Glen proposed taking a “tree census” in the borough and mapping possible sites for tree plantings, to be recorded on an excel spread sheet and submitted to the Planning Commission after consulting with the Shade Tree Commission.

*Sara suggested inviting a member of the Shade Tree Commission to attend an EAC meeting and announced that Rebecca Wertime of the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay will attend our next meeting to be held October 3 at 6:30 pm.

Erin adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.