

Borough of Mechanicsburg
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
December 5, 2006

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

Attendance:

Borough Council Members: John McDermott, Linda Humes and Matthew Seagrist

EAC Members: Cese Viti, Erin Arva, Glen Weber, Susan Richards, Ron Santo, Harry Baker

Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer

Guests/Visitors: Darwin Hollinger

Reading and Approval of Minutes.

- Minutes were accepted as prepared.

Report of Recycling Committee

- Glenda Boyer has been appointed the new Recycling Coordinator for the Borough
- Glenda plans to make business visits to encourage recycling
- Cese Viti will do a visual survey of residential recycling compliance and develop a doorknob hanger with information for noncompliant homes
- This is the last year of the current trash contract. The Borough is considering strategies to increase residential recycling and is considering limiting the number of trash bags per residence as a means of encouraging recycling. It is thought that if residents must limit the amount of trash they can put out each week they may work harder to identify trash that can be recycled. Some concern about the assumption of a link between the number of bags allowed per household per week and level of recycling was expressed by some EAC members.
- The committee continues to discuss recycling for Jubilee Day
- The grand opening of the yard waste compost facility, behind the waste water treatment plant, is planned for December 9 and will include an opening ceremony
- The next meeting of the Recycling Committee is scheduled for January 2.

Guests/Public Comment

- Darwin Harlinger a borough resident attended the meeting to bring two issues to the attention of the EAC. He expressed his concern about the absence of sidewalks in the northwestern edge of the borough and its impact on foot traffic into the downtown, and asked about plans for construction of sidewalks. He also expressed interest in efforts to improve Trindle Spring Run which flows through the northwestern side of the borough. He requested that the creek be emphasized during the annual April clean-up and also suggested that improvement of the riparian area of the creek could be a project for the EAC.

Borough Council Report

- It was reported that Ordinance 1089 was amended to allow for the use of rubber sidewalks.
- The Council requested input from the EAC regarding a request for support of a truck anti-idling petition/program proposed by the Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania. This proposed program would limit unnecessary idling of trucks when the temperature is appropriate to turn trucks off and also encourages the construction of auxiliary power units at truck stops to be used by truckers as an alternative to overnight idling. The EAC will take this request for action.
- The Council is discussing limiting truck traffic on Allendale Road to trucks with less than 3 axils.

New Business

- There was no new business put forward

Old Business

- Cese Viti suggested adding a link to the Cumberland County Conservation District on the EAC web page. The address for the Conservation District is <http://www.cumberlandcd.com>. The web site includes information on watersheds and other information of local interest. Susan Richards pointed out that one activity of the Conservation District, of potential interest to the EAC, is the District's annual tree sale. This could be a potential source of discounted tree seedlings for EAC projects.
- Ron Santo thanked all who gave comments for the Annual Report EAC write-up
- Ron told the group that he will send the Cedar Run Watershed letter of support from the EAC
- Erin Arva told the EAC that she would use a MS Word template for the EAC calendar and will include events, grant deadlines, meeting dates, training opportunities, Planning Commission meetings and the annual EAC Conference. Susan Richards is to alert Erin to deadlines and events discussed in EAC meeting minutes
- Cese Viti discussed her survey of the current condition of borough storm drains. She has surveyed approximately 1/3 in the borough and found that the previous stenciling is quite worn and often unreadable. The storm drains also have yellow paint along the curb. She suggested coordination of stenciling with touch-up of the yellow paint. She also pointed out two grant opportunities that could potentially fund this project a WREN grant (Water Resource Education Network) and a DEP mini grant. Susan Richards also suggested a DEP Environmental Education Grant and will talk to Paul Garrett, the organizer of the school district environmental clubs about applying for that grant to help pay for paint and supplies for the project.
- Erin Arva updated the group about the Bio-digestive methane energy information she has obtained from the borough engineer. She has written-up this information for Sara Nicholas so that Sara can continue her discussions with Penn Future regarding energy conservation and alternative energy solutions for the borough waste treatment plant. She also noted that the plant will probably require major upgrades in order to be in compliance with nutrient reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy. Erin offered to invite the waste treatment plant engineer to an EAC meeting.
- Cese Viti offered to contact Glenda Boyer about joining the PA EAC Network

- Erin Arva offered to provide a email list of training opportunities to the EAC as she compiles them
- Harry Baker reported that there was no new news regarding the Hess Farm development. He also reminded the group that the next Comprehensive Plan meeting will take place on December 26. The draft Comprehensive plan will go to the Council in January for their approval to advertise the review period. He expects approval in March or April. A reworking of zoning ordinances will follow to coordinate with the approved plan.
- Susan Richards offered to call the PA Environmental Council to get information about the PA EAC Conference
- Sara Nicholas had emailed Erin that the AFIG application date is in July
- Erin Arva reported that Race Miner had gotten back to her regarding statistics on vehicle impacts from long term biodiesel use. He is looking into additional information about seal wear and will have more information for her next month.

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next Meeting February 6, 2007