

Borough of Mechanicsburg
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
March 6, 2007

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

Attendance:

Borough Council Members: John McDermott, Charlie Ryder, Linda Humes

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

Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer

Guests: Paul Garrett, Mechanicsburg Recreation Department

Reading and Approval of Minutes.

Clarification was asked for on topics under additions to the agenda and will be amended in the February 6 minutes.

- Minutes were accepted as amended.

Report of Recycling Committee

Viti reported that the recycling committee was considering designs for the bags to be distributed to for public outreach. They also discussed door hangers for non-compliant residents and will discuss the waste contract next month.

Guests/Public Comment

Paul Garrett of the Mechanicsburg Recreation Department discussed the two day environmental event he is helping to plan with the school district. The event will take place at the environmental center on York Street, May 4 and 5. The events on May 5 (10 AM – 2 PM) will be opened to the public and feature speakers on a number of topics and displays from different agencies and groups. He asked that the Borough have a display about their environmental efforts.

- The EAC will discuss the display and give Glenda Boyer a list of things to include.

Additions to the Agenda

Discussion of the biofuels memo was added. The agenda was approved.

Correspondence

The PEC (PA Environmental Council) newsletter was passed around for EAC review.

Council Report

No report.

Reports of Officers and Committees

Santo noted that this month is the one year anniversary of the formation of the EAC. He introduced a Budget Tracking Report and suggested that it be review at each meeting. He felt that the EAC may be more inclined to initiate activities with increased awareness of

available funds. At present, a \$6,000 budget exists. Boyer suggested that the funds also be considered as match for grants. All agreed that the budget tracking report would be very useful.

Santo also reviewed the ordinance (Number 1068) that established the EAC in an effort to evaluate the current performance of the EAC in relation to its duties as stated by the ordinance. The powers and duties as stated by the ordinance were discussed. Action areas and areas of consideration were identified including: issues concerning borough planning such as concerns about in-fill, land reuse, historic zones and other zoning concerns. Baker suggested review of the resources on the Borough website including the index of open space and aerial photos. Nicholas suggested obtaining the maps for EAC meetings. Richards offered to print information from the website for the next meeting. Also discussed was working with the school and adult environmental clubs, support of existing groups in the community, and the EAC's role to catalyze and coordinate. It was proposed that the EAC develop a list of organizations to use as resources for EAC activities. Also proposed was the development of a master plan or EAC goals.

Old Business

A draft memo concerning a recommendation to Borough Council to consider the use of biofuels, drafted by Arva, was discussed. Some expressed concerns about the total impact of the use of biodiesel. It was suggested that a memo include recommendations for conservation alternatives, bike lanes and support for Corridor One. The EAC was asked to email Arva comments.

Arva give an update about Bio-digestive methane energy for the waste water treatment plant. She suggested that the borough go directly to Gannett Fleming as many details were beyond the knowledge of the EAC. Arva will email her draft report to the group for suggestions.

Storm drain stenciling was discussed. It was agreed that the EAC will put this activity on hold pending word about the WREN grant

Richards will follow up on obtaining trees from the Cumberland County Conservation District

Additions were given for the calendar. These include: March 24 Watershed meeting, March 31 Clean Energy Forum, and May 30 Annual Clean Energy Conference. The EAC will discuss who will attend the May 30 event. Nicholas will attend the Governor's Outdoor Conference.

Baker reported that the next Comprehensive Plan public meeting will be March 29 at 7:30. Engineering work is currently being done on the Hess farm. The Planning commission is nearing the end of the comprehensive planning process. Council may make changes in reaction to public comments. Following approval of the plan, rezoning

will be needed. Also on the agenda for the Planning Commission is a request to increase the amount of impervious surface in certain areas.

Viti will print out the 12-step program featured on the PEC website for EAC consideration

New Business

A Green Guide, written by PEC (?) is available. Arva will try to obtain a copy.

Other business for the good of the Order

EAC page in the Borough Annual Report was commended.

Adjournment

Next Meeting April 3, 2007