

Borough of Mechanicsburg
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
May 1, 2007

EAC Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Attendance:

Borough Council Members: Charlie Ryder, Linda Humes, John McDermitt
EAC Members: Cese Viti, Erin Arva, Susan Richards, Ron Santo, Sara Nicholas
Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer
Guests: Paul Garrett, Marty Butler

Reading and Approval of Minutes.

Corrections to the February, 2007 minutes were accepted
Minutes were accepted as prepared

Report of Recycling Committee

Viti Reported that the Recycling Committee agreed to change their meeting schedule so that the meetings will begin at 5:30 PM rather than 6:00, giving one hour to the meeting. She also reported that 20 recycling containers had been ordered for Jubilee Day and that the committee is considering ideas to reduce refuse pick-up cost. The committee also reviewed the submissions for the student recycling art contest to be judged by the EAC.

Guests/Public Comment

Marty Butler spoke to the EAC regarding his concern about the emissions of the Purina plant located on the border of the Borough. Specifically, he was concerned about health issues associated with the emissions related to the use of blood and bone meal and possible transmission of Mad Cow disease. Boyer will contact the environmental officer at the plant. Santo will pose the question to his contact from the Clean Air Board and follow-up with Mr. Butler.

Paul Garrett gave an update to the EAC on the status of a number of projects. The E day event scheduled for May 5 will include 36 agencies and clubs. Prizes for the art contest, to be judged by the EAC will be awarded at the environmental club meeting. The Borough will publicize the contest and winners in the newsletter. Painting of the recycling container will wait until after the refuse contract is awarded in October. Arva will put it on the calendar as a reminder.

Council Report

The group discussed rescheduling the monthly EAC meetings so that they would not conflict with borough council meetings. It was agreed that the EAC meetings would be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Reports of Officers and Committees

No report.

Old Business

The memo to Council regarding biodiesel was discussed. Council had approved a fuel contract that included 5% biodiesel earlier in the year. The EAC agreed to comment on the use of biodiesel by the borough in with the memo written by Arva and continue to study the issue.

Viti gave an update on the project to stencil storm drains. Supplies have been purchased at a cost of \$105. The stencils were free. Paul Garrett will supply the students for labor. Viti has targeted areas that most need repainting. Arva will draft a press release. Information on the activity will also appear on the website. Dates planned are June 17, 18, 19 and July 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Paul Garrett reported that the student environmental group will be doing a clean-up of Trindle Springs during the summer as well

The EAC voted on the student recycling art contest.

Revision of the EAC web page was discussed. It was suggested that a link be added for the PA Environmental Council EAC website. Viti will ask about adding this link. It was also suggested that the EAC add copies of the global warming and 12-step brochures to be handed out at E-Day. Other suggestions included a coming events list and photos. Sara Nicholas reported on the draft of the Strategic Plan. The plan is devised to help sort through information and issues that EAC encounters and to filter them through the “Lead, Lend, or Leave” categories. Santos commented that the plan should also answer basic questions about the EAC so that the public can understand what the EAC does. Nicholas will revise the draft to make it more of a public document.

Nicholas moved to accept the funding requests from the Recycling Committee for
--paper to produce informational door hangers -\$74.15
-- brown paper bags for recycling education--\$425.

Cese Viti seconded.

The motion carried

Santos will edit and update the letter already sent to Representative Nailor concerning the county’s solid waste disposal legislation and send it to Senator Vance.

Erin Arva’s report on the pros and cons of biodiesel will be sent to Borough Council after she updates it to reflect the Borough’s already having entered into an agreement to purchase biodiesel. Arva will circulate a copy of the letter to EAC before she submits it to Borough Council.

Santos will email the WWTP Alternative Energy Recommendation letter to Councilman Charlie Ryder and to Glenda Boyer.

The summer newsletter will have three environmental articles: one on global warming, one on buying local produce, and one on the bag option.

Arva will attend Penn Future's May 31 Conference and report on it at the June meeting.

Santos will follow up with Boyer to clarify the new process needed to fill vacancies on various committees.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55

Next Meeting Scheduled for June 19, 2007