

**Borough of Mechanicsburg
Citizens Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting
February 7, 2006, 6:00 PM**

The following people were in attendance:

Council: John McDermott; Charlie Ryder

Citizens Recycling Advisory Committee members: Erin Arra, Diane Hollinger, David Hoover; Carl Hursh, Arleen Shulman, Cecilia Viti

Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer

Chairman Shulman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of the Solicitor's revisions to the Environmental Council Ordinance:

Charlie Ryder noted that there was no specific reference to a Recycling Committee in the draft ordinance. It was noted that recycling duties of the Environmental Council appear in Section 1-432. G. It was agreed that under Section 1-434. the Chair of the Environmental Council has the ability to designate committees as deemed necessary.

Arleen Shulman recommended that references to the Chair in Section 1-434. be made gender neutral and that the Solicitor be advised that a revision is necessary. Section 1-434 appeared to be the only section of the proposed ordinance with that nuance.

Glenda Boyer advised that the Borough is in need of recommendations for members of the Environmental Council and revealed that the Borough Solicitor requires a member of the Borough's Planning Committee to be a member, leaving six vacancies. Arleen expressed interest and offered the possibility that Sara Nicholas may be interested in serving. Erin Arra expressed interest. Cese Vita said she would consider serving, if needed. Diane Hollinger and Carl Hursh expressed interest in serving on a recycling committee. Arleen suggested that a member of the Borough's Shade Tree Commission may be the type of person needed for the Council and offered that Borough Council may have additional suggestions. Charlie Ryder added that the Council could operate if the membership did not reach a total of seven persons.

Information on the Compost Workshop:

Carl Hursh and Patti Olenick, DEP Organics Recycling Coordinator, will conduct a one-hour home composting workshop for Borough residents on Saturday, May 6 in conjunction with the Solid Waste Authority of Cumberland County compost bin distribution. Glenda said that arrangements will be made to have the bins that are ordered by Borough residents delivered to the Borough Office. The Borough Office will be used at the site of the workshop. Carl agreed to prepare an article on the workshop for the Borough's spring newsletter.

Second Chance Leaf Collection:

Arleen asked whether a leaf collection could be scheduled for the spring in addition to the fall, Charlie and Carl also noted that lawns were being raked in January. The Borough is planning for a collection of yard waste in the spring and fall (April 3-7 & 10-14, and September 11-15). Glenda will check with Public Works on the feasibility of scheduling additional leaf vacuum collection in the spring of 2006. Carl suggested that it may be more appropriate for leaves, etc. to be collected in Kraft paper leaf bags for composting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Promotion and Community Outreach:

Three recycling ads that will be placed in the Mechanicsburg High School Musical program were circulated. It was suggested that other opportunities for placement of the ads be sought.

Improved signage the Borough's drop-off recycling site is still in need. Carl has requested two directional signs from PennDOT. A highly visible instructional sign at the collection bin is still needed, but placement may be an issue due to the small space available to maneuver the container in the parking lot and the limitation presented by Norfolk and Chesapeake Railroad right-of-way behind the container. Glenda said that the idea of having students competing to paint the container was agreeable to Penn Waste, Inc. provided that specific safety and related container markings were not obscured. Carl added that when a container is replaced, the painted container would be taken away, which would present an opportunity for additional containers to be painted as well as advertisement to others that "Mechanicsburg Recycles."

Encouraging businesses to recycle remains an issue. Glenda said that all businesses have been notified by letter of the Borough's recycling requirements and that all have replied that they recycle. There has been no follow-up. Carl cited three examples where recycling of corrugated cardboard was not being practiced despite the availability of the free drop-off container. Glenda suggested that recycling containers could be provided to businesses served by Borough collection. Arleen suggested that the Borough offer "waste audit" assistance to businesses and that it be advertised in the Borough newsletter.

Arleen further suggested that the Borough request feedback from Penn Waste, Inc. in May or June on how the status of the orange bag waste collection option. Glenda reported that Penn Waste is conducting audits of the orange bag set-outs. Glenda has inquired of Penn Waste, Inc. on whether chipboard (such as cereal boxes) may be collected with other paper in the Borough's curbside recycling program.

Recycling at Mechanicsburg Schools:

Charlie Ryder is meeting with the Superintendent regarding allegations that recyclables separated at the high school are being mixed with trash when it is collected. It was reported that there is no recycling at Elmwood Elementary School. Carl added that classroom recycling bins have been provided to the elementary schools through the efforts of Paul Garrett, and that bins will be available to all Pennsylvania schools in the spring at no cost to the schools through a Dept. of Education and DEP program. Erin suggested that a goal for implementing recycling at the schools be set. Carl suggested that a goal of having recycling in place at all schools by the beginning of the next school year should be achievable citing the example of St. Joseph's recycling program established for the current school year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Borough has been notified by DEP that its Recycling Performance Grant for 2004 recycling is under audit and that payment would be withheld until the audit is completed. Carl reported that legislation has passed the House of Representatives extending the Act 101 Recycling Fee but restricting the use of the Recycling Performance Grant funds to recycling purposes.

Two issues were brought up regarding composting:

The development of the Borough's leaf and yard waste composting site is awaiting approval of easements onto the property so that traffic will not need the wastewater treatment plant's access road.

Borough Council should act on eliminating any prohibition on the backyard composting of suitable food scraps with other leaf and yard waste, a practice recommended by the Penn State Extension, the Solid Waste Authority of Cumberland Co, and Pa. DEP. Glenda will identify the appropriate areas of the Borough ordinance and circulate to the committee for comment by e-mail. Carl stated that it would be ideal if the revision could be timed to occur in conjunction with the May 6 home composting workshop.

The next meeting of the committee will be held at 6:00 PM on March 7, 2006.