



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP

175 W. Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1802

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Upper Merion Township Building
175 W. Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

July 17th Meeting Minutes

I. Meeting Called to Order at 6:34 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

In person: Zachary Davis, Rose Grosso, Vicki Meitus, Mark Vondra, Jaque Camp, Theresa Landewe

Zoom: Kabindra Shakya

Not Present: Carole Kenney, Louise Willis

June 2024 minutes were approved by Theresa and seconded by Mark. All in favor.

II. Comments from Chairperson: see below

III. Reports and Discussions

1. Meeting Schedule for 2024
 - 3rd Wednesday of the month through September. Next meetings August 21st, September 18th
2. Plastic Pollution Reduction Ordinance Updates: Still seeing some plastic being handed out. Discussed straws and ADA. What is required regarding straws and ADA? If ADA requires a certain straw, restaurants should follow the ADA guidelines.
3. Parking Reform Letter of Support: Reviewed. Vicki made motion to sign and Theresa seconded. All were in favor to support the parking reform letter.
4. Community Choice Aggregation Support Letter: Theres made motion and Mark seconded to support the Community Choice aggregation support letter.
5. EV Charging Station Ordinance Discussion: UM township Ordinance was updated by BOS. Reviewed the June 24th, 2024 ordinance. Discussed NJ ordinance that requires 15 % of new buildings need EV chanrgers, 5% before they can get an occupancy certificate and the other 10% (needs to be EV ready) must be completed over the next 5 year. Recommend to revise the code or look at Bucks county and revise some of UM.
 - The EAC recommends the EVCS Ordinance (2024-895) is amended to align more closely to the [Bucks County Planning Commission EV Charging Station Use Model Ordinance](#). This will encourage EV adoption, enable responsible expansion of EVCS infrastructure, and support the growing number of EVs – and EV-focused businesses – in Upper Merion Township.

We support and understand the public safety concerns raised in the ordinance, however the EAC is concerned the requirements in the ordinance are overemphasizing charging infrastructure. The overburdensome restrictions on charging infrastructure don't address the stated concerns in the ordinance in that [EV fires occur more often while EVs are not charging](#). We encourage the township to invest in training and equipment to effectively and efficiently suppress potential EV fires.



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Motion to vote: Theresa motioned and Mark seconded the above recommendation (statement above). Unanimously adopted - all voted aye.

6. Goals and Objectives Follow-Up: tabled until next month
7. Comprehensive Plan: tabled
8. Sustainable Lawns BCA Grant: Barley Van Clief and Theresa met with W. Vincent township regarding what they had done in their Sustainable/Healthy lawn initiative. Plan to roll out at Fall Family Fest at Heuser. Will give out healthy yard plant kits. Households that abide by guidelines will get plack that can be presented and put in their yards.

Will update on township website the trees that are listed that are invasive.

9. Artificial Turf Discussion: no update
10. Quick Updates and Recaps
 - Rain Garden see above. May look into putting a cover crop to outcompete the weeds.
 - Wastewater Treatment Facility: no update
 - Invasive Plant Ordinance: see above
 - Community Solar Support Letter: no concerns at this time, tabled

IV. New Business

1. EAC Regional Conference
 - October 5th from 9a-5p at Temple – Ambler Campus
2. Website has some information that needs to be updated, ie invasive trees listed under environment. Make more user friendly.
3. Additional topics: Volunteer dinner: September 24th at UM community pool 5:30-7:30

V. Public Comment: none

- VI. Rose Grosso: suggested send some information to new homeowners regarding EV chargers, etc. invasive plants, lawn initiative, etc. patio pots for condos, etc.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06, Mark made motion and Theresa seconded.