



UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting minutes

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

September 18th Meeting at 6:30 PM

Meeting Called to Order at 6:52 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

In Person: Zachary Davis, Mark Vondra, Rose Grosso, Theresa Landewe, Carole Kenney, Vicki Meitus

Absent: Allison O'Donnell, Jaquelin Camp, Kabindra Shakya

Zoom: Louise Willis

August 2024 Theresa approved the minutes, Louise 2nd. All in favor

Comments from Chairperson: None at this time

Reports and Discussions

1. Meeting Schedule for 2024
 - Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30p in the Henderson Room
 - November need to confirm, maybe 6th and December 18th may work?
2. Plastic Pollution Reduction Ordinance Updates: some concerns about the bag cost. Goal is to have people bring their own bags. Have seen decrease in expanded polystyrene. Still seeing straws but need to abide by ADA rules. Still seeing some plastic utensils. Businesses are reaching out to get options in order to comply. Good worldcentric.com company has some appropriate options.
3. EV Charging Station Ordinance Discussion: no updates. Zach mentioned there was a fire in Illinois and fire department indicated they were able to put out easily. Talked re: having a training for Fire Department. Talked about approaching Lucid, Tesla, Polestar for safety protocols.
4. Comprehensive Plan Discussion: Jarrett will be coming to our meeting next month to review and focus on Land use and Natural Resources. Also want him to address transportation, zoning, more walking paths, more trees, and if build new admin building: solar panels, geothermal, try to build net zero, etc. Emphasize that sustainability must be considered in all projects.
5. Sustainable Lawns BCA Grant: Theresa- Heathy Yard Recognition program. Hope to debut 10/5 at Fall Fest. Working with Don to get a website up. Needs to run through the website. West Vincent Township has good information. Need to figure out how to have an e-flyer that has a link to brochure, or to tree tenders, etc. Possibly to make up a pamphlet for the fair. There is leftover money from rain garden that is being rolled into this grant. Have signs for residents, if get 15 out of 21 qualities, get Upper Merion Healthy yard initiative program sign for their yard.

Theresa will develop list of nurseries to go to, have plugs or quarts, and possibly seeds at Fall Fest. Idea is to educate community. Theresa will move forward with purchasing plants.



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6. Prioritization: Need to prioritize projects for coming year, break down into areas:
Natural Resources (Theresa, Louise): healthy yards, rain gardens, invasives, codes, etc.
Energy Transitions (Zach, Mark): RF100, infrastructure, transportation, ordinances, codes, community solar
Code reform (Jacque, Mark, Zach): Transportation alternatives (public, walking, biking, etc.), new construction, reconstruction
Sustainability (TBD): single-use plastics, artificial turf, wastewater treatment
7. Quick Updates and Recaps
 - Artificial Turf Discussion — status quo
 - Rain Garden: need to have 'weed' event but need some rain first
 - Wastewater Treatment Facility; status quo
 - Invasive Plant Ordinance: status quo
- II. New Business
 1. EAC Regional Conference
 - October 5th from 9 am-5 pm at Temple – Ambler Campus
 2. Citizens Board Appreciation Event
 - September 24th from 5-7:30pm at Township Pool
 3. Fall Festival: we have a table at this event
- III. Staff Comment: Rose Grosso shared the Cheetos story (NM re: suggested we have something for kids that will educate them on earth) i.e. educational program for youth. Permits is seeing people come in for EV permits and more coming in for solar, which currently has a reduced rate.
- IV. BOS liaison:
 1. Mural on Colonial building, discussing where it can go, as it needs some work and needs more permanent location.
 2. Looking to hire a company to cull (decrease) the deer population
 3. Looking into the possibilities for Heuser Park, one idea is going to put an amphitheater there. Discussed ideas for HEUSER2. Most like the idea of family focused and not more fields. Discussed that space of the new park should not be dedicated to massive amounts of parking.
 4. Township building needs to be addressed, too small for current residents
 5. HTC technology: looking into change the sludge into biochar, or to use biochar would have to be taken to the dump and to do further processing to the charge. Or 3rd taking biochar and gasifying and converting into electricity. This would result in cutting electric bill. Arro is engineering firm that township uses and had them investigate studies especial Somax's plan. Talked about infrastructure act, there are sources and funding look into what kinds of moneys are available.
- V. Adjournment: 9:06 meeting adjourned. Theresa Moved to adjourn and Mark seconded.

Submitted by V. Meitus, Secretary

Approved by: Zach Davis

Date: 16 Oct 2024

Signature: [Signature]