**East Pikeland Township**

**Environmental Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 24, 2019**

Present: Betsy Burns, Milissa Hirst, Dennis Ray, Zach Rubinich, & Samantha Uyeno

Absent: Travis Uyeno

Guests: Christine Decozza (resident), Mark Connolley (Green Team), Joel Bartlett (Green Team), Patrick Davish (West Pikeland), Rusty Strauss, Helena van Vliet (resident), Leo Kaercher (resident), & Mark Stevens (resident)

Staff: Michelle Rubin

Meeting started at 7:05pm

Minutes from the November meeting were approved without changes.

The committee members gave introductions due to the number of new guests.

**New Business**

1. Re-Organization
   * The committee voted unanimously to re-elect Betsy as the EAC Co-Chair.
   * The committee voted unanimously to elect Milissa as the EAC Co-Chair.
   * The committee voted unanimously to elect Samantha as the Secretary.
2. Schmidt Sub-Division Short Form
   * The committee passed the document unanimously with no questions.
3. Chippari Sub-Division Short Form
   * The committee passed the document unanimously with no questions.
4. E-Recycling Event Opportunity
   * Michelle presented the EAC with an opportunity to do an E-Recycling event for residents. She shared information from Responsible Recycling Services out of Kutztown.
     + After much discussion the committee decided they would like to have more research done on the company and other options. They are concerned about the business being for-profit, having to pay a fee but still charging residents, where the items go after collection, etc..
     + They would, however, like to do an E-recycling event in the township this year.
5. Master Naturalist, Composter, & Watershed Steward
   * Michelle shared information with the members about opportunities for further learning. The info will also be posted on the website and township’s social media.
6. EAC Conference: Saturday, May 18, the Poconos
   * Michelle reported that this year’s EAC conference will be held in the Poconos on Saturday, May 18. As more information becomes available the members will discuss at future meetings.
7. Strategic Planning Meeting 2/9
   * Betsy and Dennis will attend as representatives for the EAC.
   * 2019 goals
     + Ready for 100 initiative, Graham property clean up and plan, bird walk, owl prowl, continue spreading education about the EAC and environmental topics, Education on pollinators and native plants/Implement a pollinator garden/bird habitat as a learning garden, Bird Town USA, lantern fly education, continue E-newsletter, E-recycling event, build partnership between EAC and the Park and Recreation Board.

**Old Business**

1. Ready for 100 Updates
   * Mark Connolly presented to the EAC about Ready for 100. He discussed the resolution process and suggested a community engagement forum via google docs.
   * The committee members discussed tying the sustainability plan with the comprehensive plan and Ready for 100.
     + Committee should look into the implementation strategy in the Comprehensive plan for connections to Ready for 100 steps.
2. Graham Property
   * Michelle reported that a phase one environmental study has been completed. A phase 2 study was suggested, but the Board of Supervisors has decided not to pursue it at this time.
3. EAC Newsletter
   * Michelle reminded everyone to send her articles, videos, etc. that they find for future newsletters.
4. EAC Gathering—Feb. 19 @ 6pm, West Vincent Elementary
   * Area EACs are getting together to discuss ways in which they are finding success, as well as their concerns. Dennis and Milissa will attend, Betsy may attend.
     + Successes: Road clean up, guided bird walk, started newsletter, have started implementing new ideas.
     + Concerns: overlap with other opportunities in the region (segway for group projects/events), Ready for 100 (cumbersome to deal with so many plans and not contradict them and to focus on the environment amidst government constraints).
5. Bird Town USA presentation at Supervisors Meeting
   * Zach summarized his presentation for the committee. He believes approval for the first step should be easy.
   * Discussed working with local businesses to help defray the cost of participation. For example: the township can circulate a list of which area nurseries carry native plants and work with the nursery to offer a discount to residents. The Township gets a little money back for every resident that buys something.
   * Samantha would like to do education on bats as well.
6. 2019 events/programs/activities
   * Graham Property Clean Up (Saturday, March 16). The Park and Recreation Board would like to partner with the EAC to do a clean-up of the Graham property in lieu of a trail or road clean up. The committee would like to partner with the P&R Board on this project. Dennis, Betsy, and Samantha will attend.
   * Spring Tree Planting (Saturday, April 27). The Park and Rec. Board is hosting a tree planting along the French Creek Trail for Earth Week. EAC members are invited to help.
   * Shred Event (Saturday, May 4, 8am-noon). The Township is a co-host—Milissa and Betsy will split the shift.
   * Bird Walk (Saturday, May 11, 8am). Members discussed investing in some binoculars, 5 kids and 5 adults. It was suggested that we see if a local business will donate them or provide us with a match donation.
   * Park and Recreation Partnership: Michelle reported that the Park and Rec. Board is interested in partnering with the EAC on a run fundraiser for trail maintenance but not until 2020.

**Public Comment**

None.

Adjourned at 8:35pm