

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION (ESC) MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Willistown Township Recycling Commission came to order at 7:03 at the Willistown Township Building on 688 Sugartown Road, Malvern, PA.

Members present: Bruce Hartlein, Susan Vogel, Ken Lehr, Brendan Kay
Township Staff: Jennifer Jacobs

Old Business

- The Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and approved (the June meeting was cancelled due to a power outage that prevented Zoom access).
- Retrievr is fully operational. Jennifer has not had any comments from residents.
- Jennifer sent out the recycling compliance letter to commercial entities (80-100 letters). There was no feedback from any businesses. Plan to send out a reminder in the fall.
- With respect to using Event Brite for the e-waste event, we decided not to use it now. It may cause confusion or frustration with some residents. Instead, Brendan will send out an email to residents with a calendar invite so it will appear on calendars even if not accepted. Brendan's email will also remind residents that there is usually less traffic after 10am at the recycling events and encourage people not to show up at 9 am (or earlier).
- Brendan is still looking for a solution to recycle cloth masks. Jennifer will check with Retrievr.
- Susan to arrange police for recycling events.

New Business

- Had a brainstorming session for possible grant money for creative ventures related to Chester County's Zero Waste initiative. Decided to focus on food waste. Suggestions included arranging a composting class with free compost bins for those that participate; reminder to residents to bring their own leftover box when going to restaurants so food doesn't go to waste and restaurant does not have to provide a (non recyclable container); a food "pantry" where people can share non-perishables (similar to book sharing). Other ideas were presented and Susan will discuss with Patti Lynn.
- The Planning Commission is in the process of updating the Township's 2011 Comprehensive Plan (done every 10 years) and the Planning Commission's consultant has asked for input from ESC. Susan will arrange for the consultant, John Gaadt, to attend a future meeting and provide more detail about what he needs from us.
- The group discussed a possible change of night for meetings. It was decided that we would take a vote on changing to 4th Tuesday of the month at the next meeting when more members are attending.

Citizen's Comments

- ESC received an email via Sally Slook from resident Kathy Rubenstone asking us to look into grants to mitigate the use of pesticides in the Township. She is concerned that it is having a negative impact on birds, bees and butterflies.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Recycling Commission will be held on August 10 at 7:00 at the Township Building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Hartlein, Secretary