

**Lower Frederick Township
Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Inaugural Meeting**

Meeting Date: April 29, 2019 - 7 p.m.

Members present: Rachel Hendricks
Warren Jacobs
Monica Strawbridge
Ruth Heil
Jackie Oneil
Gary Bonner
Denise Finney

Public present: Marla Hexter

Call to Order: 7:08 p.m. by Rachel

Pledge of Allegiance

Organization of the Council

Each member introduced themselves with an emphasis on their background concerning environmental issues. Board of Supervisors appointed, Rachel will serve as interim chairperson until the ordinance is corrected to reflect that the Environmental Advisory Council (the Council) will self-organize.

Election of vice chair:

After discussion, Warren nominated.

Second: Jackie

All were in favor without discussion.

Election of secretary:

After the need to record meeting minutes was discussed and explained, Monica nominated Jackie.

Second: Ruth

All were in favor without discussion.

Ruth offered to produce the first meeting's minutes as a template for others to follow.

Marla explained that the board of supervisors will, by lottery at their next meeting, adjust some Council memberships to one-year terms in order to stagger term expirations.

New Business

Regular meeting date: The fourth Monday of every month, 7 p.m., at the township building was chosen as the preferred date for regular Council meetings. The first exception will occur in May, due to the Memorial Day holiday. The May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 30 at 7 p.m. The schedule is pending a review by the township manager to ensure there are no conflicts. Rachel will handle confirmation.

Discuss Bylaws: Rachel produced copies of EAC bylaw examples from nearby townships. It was agreed that she would send copies for closer review via email to all members to discuss in May.

EAC priorities: Warren started with an un-prioritized list of projects for future discussion. Each member added to it. The list included:

- Showcase projects to educate public
- Review of existing ordinances
- Renovating public landscapes
- Salvaging plants from soon-to-be developed sites
- Bird Town and/or Tree Tenders program participation
- Series of educational talks for the public, including home septic system maintenance, well-owner information, the history of DRBC, etc.
- Inventory of natural resources | stormwater basins | farms | parks
- Develop Return on Environment analysis report
- Propose use of open space on Colonial Road for education
- Litter cleanups | promote covered recycling bins
- Invasive species management | Integrated Pest Management campaign
- Outreach to reduce chemical use such as RoundUp
- Increasing walkability
- Reducing light pollution
- Encouraging composting versus waste burning
- Community gardens, establishment of
- Hazardous waste disposal outreach
- Development of a Homeowner's Guide to the Environment
- Request EAC participation in review of new development plans.
- Establish Council as a public resource for credible environmental information with a focus on solutions to problems.
- Communicate with other township boards to discover problems/issues.*

*Rachel will regularly attend supervisor meetings. Warren and Jackie serve on the Park Board and usually attend Planning Commission meetings. Marla encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Open House on June 19 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Jackie suggested prioritization be done by first categorizing the projects. The group agreed that an inventory(s) was a necessary first step. Rachel agreed to lead the group for the stormwater basin reviews. Ruth agreed to share a link to the Montgomery County Natural Resources Inventory from 2008.

A review of ordinances and community outreach was favored as the next step after inventories.

Rachel explained that the Council is self-funded. Expected costs for basic expenditures (such as a website) must be presented to the supervisors via a proposal (budget time is September), but Rachel encouraged the group to be thinking about fundraising, such as charging a fee for using the community garden. Ruth agreed to send a list of environmental grants recently announced. Jackie mentioned the fee for the upcoming EAC Network conference on May 18, which she plans to attend.

Denise asked that a township map be available for the next meeting. She also asked that the group be thinking about strategic partnerships.

Public Comment: As the Lower Frederick representative to the Central Perkiomen Regional Planning Commission, Marla said they have informative presentations at every meeting. She suggested they might be helpful for hosting venues for public education sessions. Marla informed the group about a recent visit from a member of the Sierra Club to support of the development of self-sustaining community energy projects.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

MOVED: Monica

SECOND: Rachel

All were in favor without discussion.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Heil

END