

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, January 13, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

___ VACANT X_ GEASLAND X_ HARRIS X_ HEUCKEROTH O_ JOHNSTON X_ MERKLE X_ SHREERO

LIAISONS:

X HALBOM, Staff _X_ DROSSNER, BOS Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Shreero called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

RE-ORGANIZATION VOTE

Debbie Heuckeroth motioned to nominate Deb Shreero as Chair, and Lou Ann Merkle as Vice-Chair. Debbie Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. OLD ITEMS

- a. *Working Groups Update (Green Energy Team, Live Green: Reduce Waste Team, Naturalized Spaces Team).*

Lou Ann Merkle updated the EAB concerning the Green Energy Team's progress and recent meetings. Highlights included community charrettes with faith-based organizations, Township staff, and plans to conduct future charrettes with the local business community and the School District. An update was provided concerning the Ready for 100 collaboration with neighboring communities and possible future resources. Lou Ann discussed her work creating a draft energy transition plan and will share a first draft at EAB's March meeting. The next meeting will take place on January 21st at Messiah United Methodist Church at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Heuckeroth thanked Lou Ann for her work and added a comment about Project Drawdown, an informational resource relevant to this topic.

*Ms. Heuckeroth updated the EAB concerning Naturalized Spaces Team's work. 2019 activities included educational work with residents, budget recommendations, and additional trash cans installed at McCarthy Park. She discussed opportunities for 2020, and improvements for McCarthy Park and the management of trash in that area. The team has expressed interest in collaborating with the Green House volunteers to stress the importance of native species to residents. **She proposed a resolution to host a joint-meeting between the EAB, Shade Tree Commission, Parks and Rec, Open Space Committee, and the School Board to talk about open spaces and short/long-term strategy for care. Gordon Geasland seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.***

The Naturalized Space Team has been communicating with the Trash Mob to host the next event at McCarthy Park. Gordon Geasland presented some design templates he made to combat littering and remind residents who walk their dogs to clean up the waste. Mr. Halbom was asked to communicate with the Police Department concerning next steps. Mr.

Geasland next discussed the use of no littering signs along River Road and discussed ways to improve signage and increase enforcement. Mr. Drossner asked Mr. Geasland if he had already spoken with the Chief of Police about littering signage. Mr. Geasland replied that he had spoken with the Chief and the conversation went well.

Chair Shreero added that Township staff have been researching a grant opportunity through the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund. Mr. Halbom provided an update regarding efforts made by staff to date. A future site meeting is being planned in coordination with Township Staff, EAB, and RedTail Restoration. If awarded, the grant would provide an 80/20 match to the Township's basin work within the Schuylkill River water table of Whitemarsh Township.

Eli Glick offered public comment about invasive species at McCarthy Basin.

b. *Social Media Update*

We now have 70 followers on Instagram.

c. *Business Incentive Program Update*

Debra has not received responses to her email requesting information about this program. This will be discussed in March's meeting.

3. NEW ITEMS

- a. Retrievr (Formerly Curb My Clutter) – Larry Hebling presented on behalf of Retrievr. Retriever is a program which collects used clothing and electronics for reuse. It is a mobile phone application driven program that collects items directly from residents' doorsteps. There are charges for taking TVs and microwaves.
- b. Compost Demonstration at Township Day. Mr. Halbom spoke with Montgomery County's Recycling coordinator about a live composting demonstration. Staff would like to combine the "Rot" PSA with this live demo, if possible.
- c. EAB reusable shopping bags were ordered and have arrived. These can be used as giveaways at EAB outreach events.

4. APPROVAL OF THE November, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Debra Harris moved to approve the minutes, Deb Shreero seconded. The motion passed unanimously

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Whitemarsh Township changed to a paperless timekeeping and payroll system in 2020.
- b. Municipal Sustainability Program – The Board of Supervisors voted in December 2019 meeting to participate in the Pennsylvania Municipal League, *Sustainability PA Community Certification Program*. Mr. Halbom provided an update regarding next step: *submitting our formal application to determine our current sustainability score.*

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cheryl Darby offered public comment thanking Gordon for his work addressing litter in the Township. Cheryl inquired if her local business might qualify for the Business Incentive Program by changing to a green energy provider.

7. **Next Meeting Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020
8. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Lou Ann Merkle to adjourn, seconded by Deb Shreero, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

1. Public meetings of the EAB shall follow a prescribed agenda, which will be available to the general public two days preceding the meeting.
2. The EAB will entertain Public Comment at the end of each specific action items during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. Individuals must advise the Chair of their desire to offer such comment.
3. A Public Comment period will be provided at the conclusion of a meeting for input on any subject.
4. The Board Chair shall preside over Public Comments and may within their discretion:
 - a. Recognize individuals wishing to offer comment.
 - b. Require identification of such persons.
 - c. Allocate total available Public Comment time among all individuals wishing to comment.
 - d. Allocate up to a five (5) minute maximum for each individual to offer Public Comment at a meeting.
 - e. Rule out of order scandalous, impertinent and redundant comment or any comment the discernible purpose of which is to disrupt or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting including the questioning of, or polling of, or debating with, individual members of the Board.