

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, May 15, 2023 (Hybrid Meeting) - 7:00 P.M.**  
**Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88119724449>**  
**Meeting ID: 881 1972 4449**

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Meeting Agenda is also located on the [Township Website Calendar](#).  
Residents who wish to appear in-person for this meeting may do so at the Township Building.

**MEMBERS:**

\_\_\_ LITZINGER-DRAYTON \_\_\_ GEASLAND \_\_\_ HARRIS \_\_\_ TONE \_\_\_ SHREERO \_\_\_ HERITAGE \_\_\_ KABNICK

**LIAISONS:**

\_\_\_ MELLOR, Staff \_\_\_ TURENNE, BOS

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Trash Mob Cleanup (May 16<sup>th</sup>)

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. *Plastic Bag Ordinance – Finalized Draft*
- b. *PSA Videos – Reduce and Rot*
- c. *Lawn conversion joint effort with Shade Tree Commission – Update*
- d. *Township Day Review*
- e. *Maintenance of naturalized basins and township areas*

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. *Green Recognition Program Applicant – Germantown Academy*
- b. *Gas powered lawn equipment - Education plan*

**5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

- a. March 20, 2023

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**7. BOARD COMMENTS**

**8. Next Meeting Date: July 17, 2023**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

## ***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.

# Help Beautify Your Community!

Join us for the upcoming Volunteer "Trash Mob" Event:

**TUESDAY, MAY 16TH**

9AM-11AM

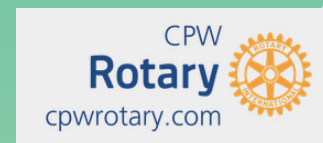
Manor Road

Between AIM Academy & Hagy's Mill Rd.  
Volunteers can park in the River Park 1 lot, in the section  
closest to Manor Rd.

Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, long sleeves,  
sturdy work shoes, gloves, bright clothing, and to bring a  
water bottle

For more information and to RSVP contact Nick Bell,  
Trash Mob Leader, by texting 610-585-5046  
or emailing [nickbell224@hotmail.com](mailto:nickbell224@hotmail.com)

The volunteer trash mob is a conscientious group  
of Whitemarsh area volunteers that coordinate with  
Whitemarsh Township to pick-up trash and litter for the  
beautification of the community and environment.



WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

610-828-7276

[WWW.WHITEMARSHPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.WHITEMARSHPARKS.ORG)

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP TO PROMOTE THE USE OF REUSABLE BAGS, PROHIBIT THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS BY RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS, ESTABLISHING A CHARGE FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN TYPES OF BAGS AT THE POINT OF SALE, AND PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the Whitemarsh Township Charter and the Second-Class Township Code authorize the Board of Supervisors of Whitemarsh Township to make, amend, and adopt ordinances that are consistent with the constitution and laws of the Commonwealth when necessary for the proper management, care and control of the Township and the maintenance of peace, good government, health and welfare of Whitemarsh Township and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, known as the Environmental Rights Amendment (the "Amendment"), provides that people have the right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As a Trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Amendment imposes two basic duties on the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions such as the Township: One is to prohibit the degradation, diminution, and depletion of the public natural resources, and the second is to act affirmatively via legislative action to protect the environment. *Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, 161 A.3d 911 (Pa. 2017); and

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance is enacted to achieve the Township's duties under the Amendment by minimizing the degradation, diminution, and depletion of the public natural resources and to affirmatively enact legislation designed to protect the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, for the reasons set forth in more detail below, the Board of Supervisors intends to preserve, maintain, and enhance the health of its residents and visitors, as well as the public natural resources and common property within the Township, by regulating the distribution of single-use plastic bags within Whitemarsh Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors, after due consideration of the proposed ordinance at a duly advertised public meeting, has determined that the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of Whitemarsh Township will be served by this amendment of the Whitemarsh Township Code of Ordinances to regulate the distribution of single-use plastic bags within the Township;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it **ORDAINED** and **ENACTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

I. The Code of Ordinances of Whitemarsh Township is amended to add a new Chapter 51B, "Environmental Protection" as follows:

**CHAPTER 51B – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**ARTICLE I – PROHIBITION ON USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS.**

**Section 51B-1. Purpose and Findings.**

**A. Purpose**

- (1) The purpose of this Chapter is to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags;
- (2) To curb litter on the streets, in the parks, and in the trees, protect the local streams, rivers, waterways and other aquatic environments, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce solid waste generation, promote the use of reusable, compostable, and recyclable materials within Whitemarsh Township, and to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of Whitemarsh Township;
- (3) To relieve the pressure on recyclers, who cite single-use plastic bags as a major source of contamination and inefficiency within the recycling stream; and
- (4) To relieve the pressure for landfills to manage the disposition of single-use products.

**B. Findings**

- (1) The use of single-use bags has severe environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, litter, harm to wildlife, ground level ozone formation, atmospheric acidification, water consumption, and solid waste generation.
- (2) There are several commercial establishments within Whitemarsh Township that provide single-use plastic bags to their customers.
- (3) Single-use plastic bags do not readily decompose.
- (4) Approximately one hundred billion single-use plastic bags are discarded by United States consumers each year. Given the difficulty of recycling these materials, less than 1 percent of single-use plastic bags are returned for recycling in the United States, and in Whitemarsh Township, such bags are not curbside recyclable.
- (5) Numerous studies have documented the prevalence of single-use plastic bags littering the environment, blocking storm drains, entering local waterways, and becoming stuck in or upon natural resources and public property.
- (6) The taxpayers of the Whitemarsh Township pay the costs related to the cleanup of single-use plastic bags from the roadways, trees, sewers, waters, and parks within the Township.

(7) Recyclers cite single-use plastic bags as a major source of contamination within the recycling stream, leading to increased costs and decreased efficiency.

(8) From an overall environmental and economic perspective, the best alternative to single-use plastic bags is a shift to reusable bags followed by compostable or recyclable paper bags.

(9) An important goal of Whitemarsh Township is to procure and use sustainable products and services.

(10) An important goal of Whitemarsh Township is to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of Whitemarsh Township.

(11) It is Whitemarsh Township's desire to conserve resources, reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, waste, litter, water pollution, and to protect the public health and welfare, including wildlife, all of which increases the quality of life for the Township's residents and visitors.

(12) Studies have documented that prohibiting the distribution of single-use plastic bags at the point of sale and placing a mandatory fee on other bags reduces plastic litter and the use of single-use bags.

(13) As required by the Environmental Rights Amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution, the township seeks to preserve the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the Township.

**Section 51B-2. Definitions.**

As used in this Article, the following terms have the following definitions:

**CUSTOMER** means any person purchasing goods or services from a Retail Establishment.

**EFFECTIVE DATE** means the effective date of the ordinance that added this Article to the Code of Ordinance of Whitemarsh Township.

**EXEMPTED BAG**

A. Means a bag used inside a Retail Establishment by a customer to deliver perishable items to the point of-sale at that establishment;

B. Shall include:

- (1) a bag used to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy;
- (2) a bag used to contain or wrap meats or fish; to contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods;
- (3) a bag used solely to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in a pet store;
- (4) a bag sold in packaging containing multiple bags and packaged at the time of manufacture of the bag.

**PLASTIC** means a synthetic material made from linking monomers through a chemical reaction to create a polymer chain that can be molded or extruded at high heat into various solid forms that retain

their defined shapes during their life cycle and after disposal, including material derived from either petrochemicals or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant sources.

**RECYCLED PAPER BAG** means a paper bag that meets the following, but not including an Exempted Bag:

- A. Contains no old growth fiber;
- B. Contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content; and
- C. Is labeled in a highly visible manner with the name of the manufacturer and the percentage of post-consumer recycled content of the bag in an easy-to-read font size.

**RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT** means a location where food or other products are offered to the public for direct sale or delivery to a customer, including but not limited to the following: supermarket, convenience store, service station, delicatessen, department store, dollar store, clothing store, restaurant, pharmacy, food truck, farmers' market, or delivery service, but not including drycleaners.

**REUSABLE CARRYOUT BAG** means a carryout bag that is designed and manufactured for multiple uses and is:

- A. Made of cloth or other machine-washable fabric that has stitched handles; or
- B. A polypropylene bag that has stitched handles.

**SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG** means a bag made through a blown-film extrusion process, but not including an Exempted Bag.

**Section 51B-3. Single-use Plastic Bags.**

Beginning 90 days after the Effective Date, Retail Establishments are prohibited from providing a Single-use Plastic Bag to a customer at the retail establishment or through a delivery. Plastic straws and utensils will be provided only upon request by the customer.

**Section 51B-4. Single-use Paper Bags.**

**A.** Beginning 90 days after the Effective Date, Retail Establishments are prohibited from providing a non-Recycled Paper Bag to a Customer at the retail establishment or through a delivery.

**B.** A Retail Establishment may provide a Customer a Recycled Paper Bag at the point of sale if the bag is provided to the Customer for a charge of not less than \$0.15 per bag.

**C.** All monies collected by a Retail Establishment under this Section for provision of a Recycled Paper Bag shall be retained by the Retail Establishment.

**D.** Any charge for a Recycled Paper Bag shall be separately stated on any receipt provided to the Customer at the time of sale and shall be identified as the "Carry-Out Bag Charge" thereon.

**Section 51B-5. Reusable Bags.**

**A.** A Retail Establishment may provide a Customer a Reusable Carryout Bag at the point of sale if the bag is provided to the Customer for a charge of not less than \$0.15 per bag.

**B.** All monies collected by a Retail Establishment under this Section for provision of a Reusable Carryout Bag shall be retained by the retail establishment.

**C.** Any charge for a Reusable Carryout Bag shall be separately stated on a receipt provided to the Customer at the time of sale and shall be identified as the "Carry-Out Bag Charge" thereon.

**Section 51B-6. Signage Requirement.**

Beginning 30 days after the Effective Date, and for six months thereafter, Retail Establishments are required to post at all points of sale conspicuous signage informing customers that Single-use Plastic Bags and non-Recycled Paper Bags will no longer be provided by the establishment as of the date the prohibition begins, explaining what types of bags and purchases are impacted, and providing any other information Whitemarsh Township may require by regulation.

**Section 51B-7. Enforcement.**

- A.** A person or Retail Establishment that violates the requirements of this subchapter shall:
  - (1) be subject to a civil penalty of \$50.00 for a first offense;
  - (2) be subject to a civil penalty of \$100.00 for a second offense; and
  - (3) be subject to a civil penalty of \$200.00 for a third or any subsequent offense.

**B.** For the purposes of enforcement under this Article, an offense shall be each day a person or Retail Establishment violates a requirement of this Article.

**C.** In addition to the penalties set forth in this Article, Whitemarsh Township may seek legal, injunctive, or other equitable relief to enforce this Article.

**D.** The failure of Whitemarsh Township to enforce any provision of this Article shall not constitute a waiver by Whitemarsh Township of its rights to future enforcement hereunder.

**Section 51B-8. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect on \_\_\_\_\_.

II. All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

III. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such determination shall have no effect on the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

**ENACTED** and **ORDAINED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

**ATTEST:**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard L. Mellor, Jr., Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fran McCusker, Chairman



**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, March 20, 2023 (Zoom Meeting) - 7:00 P.M.**  
**Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81243937308>**

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Meeting Agenda is also located on the [Township Website Calendar](#).

Residents who wish to appear in-person for this meeting may do so at the Township Building.

**MEMBERS:**

LITZINGER-DRAYTON    GEASLAND    HARRIS    TONE    SHREERO    HERITAGE  
 KABNICK

**LIAISONS:**

GLECKNER, Staff    TURENNE, BOS

**1. CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:02.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Shreero welcomed the scout troop.

Mr. Gleckner introduced the Trash Mob Event and the Montgomery County awards. The board thanked Tom Blomstrom for the invitation. The county sustainability awards were discussed, there were no projects that the board was aware of that may be eligible.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

a. *Plastic Bag Ordinance - Letter and Survey*

Ms. Shreero introduced the project and the recent actions. Mr. Gleckner stated that there were three responses to the survey, the letter was sent to around 70 businesses. There were two negative responses and one relatively neutral response. There was no feedback that informs any change to the ordinance. There was some correspondence that commented on the content of the BOS presentation and suggested picking up trash on Andorra road.

The time frame was discussed. There is a 90-day period once the ordinance is adopted before it takes effect. The EAB discussed the next steps. **Chair Shreero motioned that the EAB recommended the Board of Supervisors consider the adoption of the ordinance at the next meeting. Ms. Harris seconded the vote, all voted in favor.**

b. PSA Videos. – Reduce and Rot

Chair Shreero introduced the PSAs. Mrs. Harris suggested minor modifications to each of the videos. Ms. Kabnick asked who watches Whitemarsh TV. Other methods of dissemination were discussed. There was discussion of when the voice overs will be completed. The goal was to complete the videos before township day.

c. Discussion of Volunteer Day with Friends Academy

Ms. Saurman stated that she wants to do a service that will improve the watershed, anything that 11 and 12 year olds can do that is not picking up trash. Ms. Kabnick asked if there was any Germantown Academy land that could be used. Ms. Saurman stated that she wanted the effect to be on the broader community. Ms. Kabnick stated that Fort Washington State Park has a friends of the park group that often does events. Ms. Kabnick stated that they would work together to find work in Fort Washington, invasive removal or trail maintenance, will talk to Jamie and the ranger. Ms. Shreero noted that the township is giving out green recognition awards and suggested that GA apply.

d. Lawn conversion joint effort with Shade Tree Commission – Update

Ms. Kabnick introduced the project. She reminded the EAB that there will be a sight visit next Wednesday to visit sights that could potentially be converted to forest. There was a note that the projects will now be bid out to contractors. There was discussion of different local contractors that could apply for the projects.

Two sights near Valley green and senton will be definite sites. The site on Thomas will be considered. The program was introduced to the members of the public in attendance.

e. Township Day – April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Ms. Shreero introduced the event. There will be examples of compost, compost info, examples of reducing waste. It was noted that 30% of landfill waste is food. Ms. Shreero stated that she will send out a list to get names to sign up for shifts. Mr. Geasland will reach out to SRT and the nature center to see if they are interested in speaking at the day. There was discussion of the items to be raffled off. There will be a QR code for the table that links to composting info.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Green Recognition Program Applicant – Back to Earth Composting LLC

Ms. Shreero introduced the applicant and their composting service. There costs, logistics and pickup was discussed. The benefits of a composting service were discussed. **Ms. Kabnick motioned to grant the award, Ms. Harris Seconded, all voted in favor.** The applicant will get noted on township day, will be posted on the website, and will have a photo taken.

b. EAB information board on Township Lot

Mr. Gleckner noted that there is still a board on the township lot with information on it. The group discussed when it was installed and potentially using it after the construction of the stormwater basin later in the year.

c. Stormwater MS4 Updates from Township Engineer – EAB Input

Mr. Gleckner introduced the stormwater permits that Ms. Heinrich submitted this this year. Ms. Harris went through a list of out of date information and potential updates. Ms. Harris gave Mr. Gleckner a list of updates to bring to Ms. Heinrich.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

a. January 30, 2023 Minutes were approved with modifications.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were various comments from the scout troop in attendance. These included comments about litter following the last Township Day, potential involvement from the Environmental Club at Colonial High School, Fort Washington park and Wissahickon trails invasives removal, and the plastic bag ban.

There were also discussion from residents about the township rain garden, recycling pickup, and other EAB issues

## **7. BOARD COMMENTS**

The board thanked the members of the public for coming.

**8. Next Meeting Date:** May 15th, 2023

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Geasland motioned to adjourn , Ms. Shreero seconded the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24.

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