

**UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2019**

The meeting of the EAC was called to order by Marty Andrejko at 6:30 P.M.

Present: EAC members Marty Andrejko, Carrie Gross, Tawnya McCain, Laura Obenski, and Alexa Manning; Uwchlan Township Board member Mayme Baumann, Scott Greenly and Tara Giordano.

Reorganization

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Mr. Andrejko opened the floor for nominations for chairperson. Carrie Gross nominated Laura Obenski, all were in favor. Mr. Andrejko then opened the floor for nominations for vice chairperson. Marty nominated Carrie Gross, all were in favor. Carrie nominated Tawnya McCain for Secretary. Tawnya McCain stated that she would act as secretary in the interim, do be discussed at the March 20th meeting.

Chairperson: Laura Obenski

Vice Chairperson: Carrie Gross

Secretary: Tawnya McCain

The minutes of the September 19th meeting were approved unanimously.

New Business

Ready for 100 Resolution

Ms. Manning reported to the council that the Renewable Energy subcommittee met to draft a resolution supporting a 100% renewable energy future for Uwchlan Township. The subcommittee reviewed multiple resolutions passed by our neighboring communities in the creation of the draft resolution, all of which were based on a draft resolution created by the Sierra Club for the Ready for 100 program. This is an aspirational goal looking to transition to 100% clean and renewable electricity by 2035 and complete energy sustainability for things such as heat and transportation by 2050. The draft calls for the Township to commission a committee and/or contractor to draft an energy transition plan by April 22, 2020, which is Earth Day. The Council voted unanimously to send the resolution to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

Kendra McMillin, the Eastern Area Forest Health Specialist from the DCNR. Kendra wanted to introduce herself to the Council and offer her assistance with any questions regarding the Spotted Lanternfly and other invasive species. Kendra reported that there may be grant funding available that the Township could possibly have filtered to Township residents regarding the Emerald Ash Borer and the Spotted Lanternfly. Kendra also offered her expertise to the Township in the creation of a management plan for the Spotted Lanternfly and the Emerald Ash Borer. The entire state of Pennsylvania is under quarantine for the Emerald Ash Borer and most of eastern Pennsylvania is under quarantine for the Spotted Lanternfly. Kendra mentioned that Penn State is leading the initiative against the Spotted Lanternfly by getting information out to residents and municipalities. The council discussed tree banding and the benefits and concerns that come with tree banding. While the bands can target the Spotted Lanternfly, it can also cause other, beneficial insects and wildlife. Discussion ensued regarding an Ash Tree inventory to combat the Emerald Ash Borer.

Plastic Bag Resolution

Mr. Andrejko started the conversation by discussing his concerns with a potential plastic bag ordinance. He reported 40% of people are using shopping plastic bags as bag liners. He referenced a recent trip to Boston, which imposes a 5-cent fee on plastic bags and reported that San Francisco imposes a 10-cent fee. Marty relayed to the EAC that the large environmental footprint that the other alternatives to plastic bags can have. Mr. Greenly reported to the EAC that the Township is in the very preliminary stages of evaluating the concept of a plastic bag regulating ordinance. He handed out a resolution recently passed by Lancaster City, PA that promoted businesses restricting their use of plastic bags. The Council discussed potential outreach measures to affected businesses. The Council discussed the concept of passing a resolution encouraging the reduction of plastic bags, while the Township investigated a full ordinance regulating plastic bags.

Ms. Gross reported to the group on a resolution that the subcommittee has drafted, that is very similar an ordinance recently passed by Narberth Borough in Montgomery County. Ms. Gross reported that she also shared the ordinance with a group on Facebook asking for feedback, and there was overwhelming support for such an ordinance. It was discussed that there is cultural component with such an ordinance and this process also involves changing habits people have accustomed to with plastic bags. Ms. Gross also mentioned that she would like the resolution and ordinance to include plastic straws. Many similar ordinances simply do not put plastic straws out, but will accommodate patrons who request them. Mr. Greenly stated that he would forward a copy of the resolution to the Recycling subcommittee focusing on the plastic bag resolution for input on content.

Sub Committee Reports

The Recycling Subcommittee stated that their report was handled in the previous discussion.

The Ready for 100/Renewable Energy Subcommittee reported that they met on December on 31st and discussed a Community Energy Leaders meeting, encouraging other members interested to get involved. The focus of this meeting will be on how to answer questions regarding the Ready for 100 program. Ms. Manning will inform the EAC when the meeting will be.

Water Resources Subcommittee met with Township staff twice to discuss the MS4 Program and the public awareness initiatives the Township has started, such as information in utility billings that was done in coordination with the 6th Grade Center. Ms. Obenski discussed the MS4 program and the reporting requirements the Township has to follow. The subcommittee is going to touch base with the 6th Grade Center on updating the information that was previously created. Ms. Obenski also mentioned the stenciling of drainage inlets and potential content for Township social media posts. Ms. Obenski also reported on the detention basin improvements being completed with grant funding through the DEP. The committee would share notes from their meetings with the rest of the committee as desired.

The Environmental Land Practices reported that they had not met yet, but information regarding composting had been circulated within the committee. Ms. Manning reported on a composting event being held at the Exton Library hosted by the Chester County Solid Waste Authority.

The Community Outreach Subcommittee met in December and discussed Earth Day and possible ways to get the community involved, especially kids and families. The subcommittee talked about hosting quarterly community events, possibly outside in warmer weather. The group discussed the possibility of two weekend events to reach a broader audience. The group discussed several potential events including speakers, movie screenings and informational events and ways to make them kid friendly. The

subcommittee also discussed a youth environmental steward program. This could involve an online form, or passport, with 20 things to be completed based on age, with the idea of launching the program around Earth Day 2019. The subcommittee also looked at potential educational opportunities for the EAC members and residents, with potential grant funding opportunities. The subcommittee also discussed some issues regarding getting a “green tent” at Community Day. The subcommittee will continue to work with the Community Day Subcommittee to possible accommodate such a tent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.