

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Reorganization and Monthly Meeting
January 20, 2021

Attending: EAC members Laura Obenski, Alexa Manning, Toni Gorkin, Nicholas Kurtz, Kathy Sotak, Kimberly Mariani. Public attendees included John T. Neilson, Ron Neilson, Amber Neilson, Jackie Pickering, Kate Carpenter, Lindsay Lebresco

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Laura Obenski. The Meeting Minutes of 11/18/20 were approved.

Business:

1. The annual reorganization was completed.
 - a. Chair - Laura Obenski; Vice Chair - Nicholas Kurtz; Secretary – Toni Gorkin
 - b. The 2021 Meeting Schedule will remain as regular meetings every other month on the third Wednesday, with worksessions on the third Thursday of the alternate month.
2. Laura led review of the 2021 EAC Strategic Plan developed during the EAC's December worksession meeting facilitated by Kathy Sotak. Laura and Kathy noted this document will continue to evolve and that the EAC is open to community input. The EAC has seven seats filled now but remains open to involvement by additional volunteers on its subteams. It was decided that Kathy will add a disclaimer that the plan is a living document and will refine the mission and vision statements. It will then be passed to the Board of Supervisors. Laura thanked Kathy for facilitating the worksession.
3. Laura presented the EAC Social Media Plan put together by Kimberly Mariani. The EAC's Facebook page is growing. The process defined is to send content to Kimberly to post and manage. This document will also be passed to the Board of Supervisors.
4. John T. Neilson then presented a review of the Audubon Management Corporation's Land Development Plan for the property at the Turnpike Interchange. He was assisted by Ron Neilson and Amber Neilson. The plan has been granted conditional use for distribution center buildings and a 30-acre park. Given that the property includes sensitive environmental areas to preserve, Mr. Neilson is planning instead of an active sports-focused park a more "passive" and educational park with a walking and biking experience, a trail system crossing Route 100, charging stations for electric vehicles, etc. The plan is to add a lot of trees in what is now open area, and native plants are being considered for landscaping. He noted he hopes to use more sustainable standards for the buildings, such as steel structure that will permit solar panels on the roof, in anticipation of Pennsylvania incentives. He is looking at some LEED certification for the buildings, although tenant

desires will influence. He will use lighting that meets LEED and Uwchlan township requirements.

Laura noted Mr. Neilson's participation in township meetings and his willingness to collaborate on environmental considerations.

Alexa asked how construction of the buildings would be staged. Mr. Neilson noted it is early to determine staging pending tenant needs, but construction would probably start with the largest building and the park in 2022. Alexa asked about plans for construction that supported energy conservation, noting the work being done at the township, county, and regional level in the Clean Energy Task Force. Toni suggested that the land development should also be done considering environmentally sustainable practices and include native plants. Nick thanked John for proactive work on solar infrastructure on buildings.

Laura asked, because this is an impactful location for the township, whether thought had been given to reflecting the unique Uwchlan Township identity in the appearance of the buildings and park. Mr. Neilson showed pictures of some ideas for incorporating design into the building décor to give a sense of local identity.

In response to a question about stormwater and possible use of permeable surfaces in parking lots, Ron Neilson provided information about water runoff management plans being made. Studies are under way on infiltration rates and movement of water within the site, and planning is being done with a civil designer for using best management practices for stormwater so as to not impact the environmentally sensitive areas of Pickering and Shamona Creek. Planning of landscaping and trees is under way in greater detail than the conditional use plans being shown.

5. Earth Week 2021 – Laura noted that the next EAC worksession meeting in February will look at planning an Earth Week observation that would include a campaign for #Sustainable Uwchlan. She asked members to start brainstorming, on ways to continue to build partnerships with businesses, for example, in the areas the EAC cleaned up in Lionville on MLK day.

Reports:

- Land Use - Laura reported on several development plans before the Planning Board and BOS, including the Gray property plan, Severgn plan, and Eagleview Town Center 2. She noted that the EAC had provided comments on the plans; in particular it has been determined that the Severgn plan is not in conflict with pipeline setback requirements, although there had also been questions about inadvertent returns nearby. Laura noted the upcoming meetings regarding these projects.

- Ready For 100/Energy Planning – Alexa reported the Clean Energy Leaders Group resumed meeting every 2 weeks. There are 50-60 people in over 30 municipalities in 5 counties involved. Most of the townships have clean energy resolutions. Laura and Alexa are attending for Uwchlan.

The Uwchlan Township Ready For 100 Task Force met Jan 12. One focus is on evaluating the Township's operations to identify energy savings. Plans are also for the Township to identify stakeholders and opportunities for collaboration with the community to draft an Energy Transition Plan. A brochure is under development. Alexa thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support of RGGI. She foresees some real actions happening in 2021.

Alexa suggested we all can work on energy efficiencies in our residences, and that this was a great topic for a virtual education event.

- Heart of Uwchlan – Toni noted that the Native Plant Resolution was near final draft to go to the Board of Supervisors. Also, planning and seed sowing has started for the new wet area garden, and education topics for the township's eNewsletter and virtual events are being defined. The team looks forward to spring planting, resuming the Learning Trail, and mapping out education on sustainable gardening practices.
- Parks and Rec – Kathy Sotak attended the January 4 meeting and asked if the EAC could be on their next agenda to share our 2021 plan and develop awareness of each other's activities. She saw opportunities for relationship building.
- Laura invited EAC members to attend Parks and Rec and Historical Commission meetings with the idea to build collaboration.

Announcements were reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Gorkin, EAC Secretary