

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 17, 2021 6:30pm

Workgroup Meeting

Present: EAC members Laura Obenski, Alexa Manning, Toni Gorkin, Nicholas Kurtz
Jim Warihay, Joe Laird

Laura called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Business:

1. Eagleview Town Center II -

The file forwarded by Laura for review couldn't be opened. The EAC needs to provide a comment letter to Tara by June 25.

Nicholas reported Tawnya had no pressing comments, but the drawings were not clear.

Alexa noted the Energy Transition memo was a good description of how transition could be done, but more specific tie-ins were needed with the Clean Energy initiative. The construction will be Silver Leed. However, Alexa wanted to see more details and expressed concerns that the initial construction will install all gas-powered appliances, which would require a huge reconfigure when solar panels are installed. Further, the plan does not appear to include a switch over to solar. There is no detail on amount or array of solar panels, so it appears from the document that solar is not being considered.

Regarding post construction stormwater management planning, the area is very large and the plan includes preparation only for smaller storm events than those bigger ones we are experiencing these days. Basins and BMPs will discharge into Wharton watershed, and that will be a significant water volume.

Laura noted the document was very brief and needed more substance.

Questions need to be developed for more robust discussion in the Planning meeting.

2. Giant Healing the Planet Grant - Toni noted she was working on an application for a grant for the Heart of Uwchlan project and thanked the EAC members for their comments on the preliminary draft.

3. 2021 Educational Series Update

a. June 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., Connie Schmotzer will give the virtual presentation on "From Suburban Yard to Native Landscape"

b. Heart of Uwchlan/EAC Open House. Laura noted she had approval of the Township manager to have such an event. We have many info pamphlets and could do demos and displays. She suggested a target date mid to end of August and noted there would not be a traditional Community Day. The event could be coordinated with the Parks and Rec Commission.

4. Ready for 100 / Energy Transition Plan update - Alexa has a presentation she will share at the next meeting. She did send out the entire draft Plan to the EAC.

She noted that the BOS approved consultation with Practical Energy Solutions for the township facilities.

The Police Department is about to put in service 2 new hybrid vehicles.

Alexa noted the Transition Plan is a 2-step project, focusing on municipal operations first, then community wide opportunities and education. The Township will work with the professionals (Practical Energy Solutions) to get a detailed energy audit and energy plan with benchmarking.

Here are the Energy Transition Plan goals:

1. Conduct a detailed energy audit for municipal operations and establish a township energy management plan that includes benchmarking and bill audits.
2. Electrification of municipal buildings and operations including the wastewater treatment plant and municipal buildings.
3. Review and update township ordinances for zoning, codes, benchmarking, encouraging renewable energy and high efficiency energy net zero expectations for new construction.
4. Establish a budget that will include energy transition planning and implementation costs, including an energy reinvestment savings plan.
5. Community outreach, education and advocacy of the ETP to promote energy efficiency best practices, education of the needs and benefits, and collaborate with and recognize community partners who are leading the way in Uwchlan Township.

Alexa noted this is larger than just Uwchlan Township and involves over 50 municipalities in five counties.

Reports: see above.

Announcements:

06/22 7:00p EAC Educational Series: Suburban Yard to Native Landscape

07/7 7:30p Planning Commission

07/8 7:30p Historical Commission

07/12 7:30p Board of Supervisors

07/21 6:30p Environmental Advisory Council

The meeting was then opened to the public for comments and questions.

Joe Laird reported that the Acker Park stormwater refitting has been designed and proposed to the BOS and they are starting the bidding process. The EAC has asked to be involved. Jim Warihay asked to let him know to help. He saved a patch of milkweed at the site. There is supposed to be a flowered basin mowed only a few times a year.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Gorkin, Secretary