
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, October 25, 2011

The Environmental Advisory Council hosted a “summit” meeting at Canal Street Pub beginning at 4 pm.

EAC members present – R. Nieves, A. Molteni, H. Rauenzahn, B. Jennings

Other officials and employees present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag, K. Stamm

Paul Carter, Senior Account Executive of Noresco, presented a program on the Guaranteed Energy Savings Program. Mr. Carter explained that the savings from the project must equal the cost of improvements over a fifteen year time frame. He stated that most projects do not have a capital outlay required as energy savings are used to cover costs.

Mr. Carter stated that Noresco has been working with Berks County on several projects at the Services Center/Courthouse, Berks Heim and the County prison. He stated that the projects also include behavior change training. The projects are measured, monitored and modified on an annual basis to ensure savings continue.

Tom Green, Kutztown University, stated that he has completed several projects with Noresco and has realized \$700,000 per year in savings. He stated that this positive cash flow is beyond the cost of the capital needs of the projects.

Mr. Beane arrived at this time.

Mr. Stamm stated that the School District has installed motion sensor lighting and he hopes they will look into solar panels.

Mr. Green stated that the annual savings is being reserved for further energy saving projects at Kutztown University.

Ms. Rauenzahn suggested training for newly elected officials.

Dr. Jennings left the meeting at this time.

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Present –A. Molteni, R. Nieves, H. Rauenzahn, D. Beane

Also present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag

CALL TO ORDER

Harriet Rauenzahn called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BCTV

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that Mr. Molteni will host the October show.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

The Committee is meeting on Friday, October 28.

BERNHART PARK UPDATE

Ms. Hoag reported that an issue has been discovered regarding the permanent fencing around the steep slope area where it abuts private property. The need for this permanent fence has not been recorded on the deeds.

Ms. Rauehzahn questioned what the EAC could do about the situation. Ms. Hoag stated that she wished to make the EAC aware of the situation and that she is following up.

Mr. Nieves questioned how she was following up. Ms. Hoag stated that she will keep working with DEP/EPA to get the deed restrictions filed. Mr. Beane stated that the deeds should already be on notice to have the restriction noted.

Mr. Beane questioned if these private lots were remediated. Ms. Hoag stated that these lots failed the environmental testing and that Exide has purchased the lots from the developer.

CEMETERY LANE

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz sent photos of trucks parking on Cemetery Lane and stated that witnesses have seen oil changes occurring on site which could be causing soil and water pollution. There is also concern with road destruction due to the heavy truck traffic.

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Cemetery Lane is not a City street but is private property. She explained that most of the property is within Mt. Penn but part of the property is in Reading. She stated that Reading and Mt. Penn codes officials visited the property and issued citations for other issues.

Ms. Hoag suggested that the witness to the oil changes call DEP. She suggested that the City follow up with DEP after the resident calls to report the issue.

RHS RECYCLING

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that Mr. Spencer was contacted to recognize students at RHS who have begun a recycling program in the cafeteria. He did not have specific information about who the students are. Ms. Rauenzahn will follow up with Janet Drayer to see if this is a project which she was working on.

VACANT LOTS

Mr. Molteni suggested that if vacant lots are given to adjacent property owners that they should be required to plant trees or a garden.

Mr. Beane noted his discomfort with planting trees too close to homes as many problems can occur as the tree matures.

Ms. Hoag suggested that many property owners acquire vacant lots for off street parking. She suggested using a paving system that is not impermeable.

Mr. Molteni suggested that the EAC meet more often to work more quickly through issues.

Ms. Katzenmoyer requested that these meetings not occur in the evenings as her evening meeting schedule is very full.

Mr. Beane stated that subcommittees should be established for specific projects. The subcommittees do not need to be only EAC members. The subcommittee should then report back to the EAC on progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, November 22 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk