



**Montgomery Township Environmental Advisory
Committee
March 23, 2021
7:00 PM**

Montgomery Township Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) met on March 23, 2021 virtually via TEAMS.

The members of the EAC in attendance included: Ryan Rex (Chair), Don Hamp (Vice-Chair), Maureen Mirabella, and Barry Baker. Also, in attendance was Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager. Absent were members, Terry Wilson, Jeanine Hurry, Emily Strake and Board of Supervisors liaison, Beth Staab.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. once it was determined a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 02/23/21 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Mr. Rex and Ms. McCreary updated the committee on the battery recycling initiative which began on March 22. Containers are located at the Township Building and Community Recreation Center. No lithium batteries are being accepted and this is posted at both sites and on the Township's Facebook page. Additionally, the service is being provided to Township residents only and residents of other communities who are calling are being encouraged to contact their Township or Borough directly.

The Committee discussed continuing their efforts to educate residents on a variety of issues and Mr. Rex suggested "front-loading" the Township with the information and letting staff determine when and how best to communicate it going forward.

Mr. Hamp indicated he is continuing to compile and track the larger issues and concerns the group has brought up as topics for future meetings and initiatives on a spreadsheet which is available for the members to review.

New Business

Ms. Mirabella spoke about the amount of plastic bags being distributed at stores and takeout eating establishments and wondered if the EAC could educate residents the way they recently did about avoiding disposable plastic eating utensils. Questions arose about what actually happens to the bags collected and it was suggested she contact Wegmans to see if they would be able to provide information on what happens to the bags collected.

She also spoke about the apps that many local pizzarias are using like Slice, which don't have the option to opt out of plastic utensils and her efforts to reach someone to suggest including it. It was suggested an appeal directly to the vendors might have more impact on the creator of the app.

Mr. Rex spoke about the process for purchasing and installing solar panels at his residence, noting it took 2 years to obtain PECO permitting. He spoke about the idea of educating the average homeowner who might be put off by the perceived cost and process. Mr. Rex noted the impact the solar panels have on his energy costs particularly in the summer.

The Committee considered making their EAC meeting a "Solar Summit" held in-person and promoted to residents to educate them about installing solar panels. In order to ensure that they approach it from a variety of perspectives it was decided Mr. Baker will work on gathering information from PECO and PP&L and possibly other electric utilities. Mr. Rex will obtain information from Solar City. Ms. Mirabella will research what other EACs have done in this area. Mr. Hamp will research programs and possibly grants available to homeowners on the internet. Each member will share their information at the April meeting to put together a program for May.

Mr. Baker spoke about some of the meatier challenges that could be addressed by the EAC in the future including climate adaptation and climate resiliency. He spoke about greenhouse gases, flooding, and MS4 (stormwater) and suggested revisiting the past sustainability study to determine what was successfully implemented and use it to update what to still study.

Mr. Hamp spoke about the upcoming EAC joint meeting and the potential to partner with other EACs and learn more about their successes.

The committee discussed the frequency of their meetings, noting they have a lot of issues they are working on right now and monthly meetings are helpful. Based on discussion among the members there was consensus all members should try to let the Chair know in advance if they cannot attend to assure a quorum and to begin the meetings promptly at 7:00 p.m., adjourning at 8:15 unless there was a pressing matter that still needed to be addressed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20 at 7:00 p.m. via TEAMS.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.