



Upper Uwchlan Township

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
May 3, 2022 – 6:00 PM – Township Building
Minutes

Attendees

Council members Amit Dalvi, Madhu Gurthy, Neil Phillips, and Meredith Squitiere attended. Assistant Township Manager Shanna Lodge attended. Alexa Manning of the Uwchlan Township EAC attended.

Call to Order

Neil Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Review of Minutes

Neil asked for comments on the minutes of April 5. Neil advised that the Boards and Commissions meeting mentioned in the previous minutes went well, and that his presentation on behalf of the EAC was well received. Amit moved, and Madhu seconded, to approve the minutes of April 5, 2022. The motion carried.

Old Business

Earth Day Celebration Event

The Earth Day Celebration was held on April 23. Neil reported that he was impressed with the attendance, given it was the group's first event, and noted that it was a good mix of vendors and participants. He commended the EAC members on their communication with attendees, and Shanna for her planning efforts. Neil advised that the group maintain a list of the vendors who participated for next year's event.ⁱ

Green Drop Donation Drive

The Green Drop Donation Drive will be held on Friday, May 20. The drive has been publicized on the Township website, social media, and to the HOA managers. Shanna will continue to promote the event this month. Madhu and Neil offered to be on site for the event to assist Green Drop as necessary and answer attendee questions.

Guest Speaker

Alexa Manning, Uwchlan Township EAC

Alexa shared about several efforts of the Uwchlan Township EAC, including the group's work toward clean energy. In 2019, Uwchlan Township passed a resolution in support of a "100% Renewable Energy Future by 2050." Alexa advised that this is a lofty goal with practical steps toward success, including a municipal energy transition plan and the creation of a clean energy steering committee. She offered contacts and resources on this issue, including "Ready for 100," the Clean Energy Leaders Group, and DVRPC.

Other efforts by the Uwchlan EAC include the upcoming Heart of Uwchlan event, which highlights native plantings.

New Business

Adopt-a-Township Road Litter Program

This item was tabled until the June meeting.

Block Party

The group discussed potential giveaways and other plans for their booth at the Block Party. In a discussion of giveaways including a URL, the group discussed options for additions to the Township website to include more information about recycling, stormwater, and native plantings. Alexa offered insight and examples from the Uwchlan Township website. The EAC intends to re-use games and information from the Earth Day Celebration at the Block Party. Shanna will get quotes for logo magnet and t-shirts for the EAC. Madhu will explore procuring seed packets as giveaways. At the next meeting, the EAC will finalize schedule of manning the booth at the event.

Electronics Recycling Event

The electronics recycling event is scheduled for October 22. In the past, the event has been held at the Public Works building, which allows circulation. The group briefly discussed relocating the event, but no change was decided upon. It was the consensus of the group that it would be good to add a shredding opportunity to the event. Shanna will get a quote or quotes for a shredding event.

Late Summer Event Ideas; Other Efforts

Madhu suggested a planting event for July or August, which would fill an emptier space on the calendar and fulfill the group's goal to plant native pollinators. Amit noted the benefit of plants that attract butterflies, suggesting Upland Farm as an ideal place for these. The Girl Scout Troop previously interested in planning a flower garden at Upland Farm has backed out, but the EAC remains interested in this. Madhu suggested July 8 or 9 as a possible date. The group will reconsider at their next meeting. Also under consideration for an EAC effort is the planting of redbud trees.

A discussion of a possible educational event followed. Of interest was the local author and conservationist Doug Tallamy. Shanna will reach out regarding his speaking fees and availability. Alexa mentioned that Chester County Master Gardeners are also great speakers.

Township Tree Lighting

Neil suggested, given the time of year, this event might be ideal for a giveaway of bulbs. He also noted that he has spoken to Epicurean Garage about sponsoring cocoa, coffee, and/or dessert. Further planning for the event will be on upcoming meeting agendas.

Comprehensive Plan Review

The Council reviewed the 2014 Comprehensive Plan Chapter 4: Infrastructure and Services. Neil offered his review, which included discussions of the Act 537 Wastewater planning, Energy, and Green Infrastructure and Stormwater. Shanna advised that Township-wide Act 537 planning, which is called for in the 2014 Comp Plan, is underway. This aspect of the plan is the purview of the Township Municipal

Authority. Regarding energy, the group discussed solar panels, installation of charging stations for electric vehicles, efforts to upgrade the Township fleet with electric vehicles, and LEED certification of Township buildings. The maintenance and upgrade of the Township stormwater infrastructure remains a very high priority, particularly given the DEP designation of Township waterways, all of which are “high quality” or “exceptional value.” The group went on to discuss the future implementation of a stormwater fee. The group discussed the need to incorporate green design into development, noting in particular any expanded parking at Upland Farm.

Open Session

Madhu reported about a “garden tour” that she attended at another municipality, which provided a chance to see the plantings of residents in the area. Shanna advised that Cathy Tomlinson, of the Park and Recreation Board, has expressed interest in an event like this, and suggested that the EAC partner with the PRB to consider something similar.

Adjournment

There being no more items before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shanna Lodge

¹ A list of participating vendors is attached to these minutes for the record.

Earth Day 2022 Vendors/Participants

AJ Blosenski (Township recycling hauler)

PA DCNR (Marsh Creek SP)

Chester County Solid Waste Authority

UUT Public Works (Stormwater and Recycling Displays)

The Jeweled Warrior

Evoke Solar

Keep PA Beautiful.org/Chester County Planning Commission

Save Soil

The Edge Farms

Epicurean Garage

Juniper Tree

Persis Indian Grill