



## Upper Uwchlan Township

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

August 2, 2022 – 6:00 PM – Township Building

Minutes

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### Attendees

Council members Amit Dalvi, Madhu Gurthy, Neil Phillips, Patti Spackman and Meredith Squitiere attended. Assistant Township Manager Shanna Lodge and Planning Commission member Jeff Smith attended.

### Call to Order

Neil Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### Review of Minutes

Neil asked for comments on the minutes of July 12. Amit moved, and Madhu seconded, to approve the minutes of July 12, 2022. The motion carried.

### Old Business

#### Water Protection Fee Program

Neil provided a re-introduction to the Township's Water Resource Protection Program. The water being addressed includes rainwater; runoff; and any other non-potable, non-wastewater water that flows. Because of unfunded mandates from the State and Federal governments to keep streams and ecosystems clean, in addition to the health and safety benefits of doing so, Upper Uwchlan Township operates stormwater systems and programs, including the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and permits for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The burden to fund and maintain these programs falls on local municipalities. Given the age of the Township's system, as well as the increase in pressure placed on it due to more frequent severe weather, the Board of Supervisors began exploring new funding streams several years ago. This year, the EAC has taken up the mantle of resuming efforts toward the implementation of a water protection fee to be calculated based on a property's impervious surface.

The Council discussed credit programs, which can help a property owner offset the fee burden by installing or maintaining best management practices – e.g., rain gardens, rain barrels, detention basins, etc. – on their property. The group went on to discuss the need for public engagement and education before the new fee is implemented. Shanna advised that she is working to get the consultants who had previously worked on the water protection fee development with the Township to attend an upcoming meeting of the EAC. Neil asked the group to be prepared with questions for the consultants.

#### Upcoming Township Events

The group discussed their potential participation in upcoming Township events. The Park and Recreation Board is planning a fall concert at Upland Farms for September 18 from 5-7 PM. It was the consensus of the group that they may not opt to be formally involved, given the other events on which they will focus their efforts.

The Trunk-or-Treat is scheduled for October 29 at Hickory Park from 3-5 PM. It was the consensus of the group to distribute daffodil bulbs at the event. These can be assembled in brown paper lunch bags and sealed

with EAC stickers on site. Shanna will report back how many attendees were at the event in 2021 to estimate the purchase.

The annual “Light Up Upper Uwchlan” Tree Lighting is scheduled for November 26, 2022. The EAC plans to participate, and will continue discussions of eco-friendly décor, crafts, or giveaways at a future meeting.

#### Fall Education Event

Meredith reported that she is in continued discussions with the Master Gardener program, along with a related Master Watershed program, to select and schedule a fall education event. Those groups have advised that November is a little too late for the “Putting Your Garden to Bed” program. To ease and expedite planning, the Council empowered Meredith to select a program and work to schedule a date for an evening or weekend in November. She will report back.

#### EV Charging Stations

Neil reported that he continues to research and contact Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station manufacturers but has not had great success. Shanna noted that while Upland Farm had previously been discussed as a potential location for an EV Charger, but that the limited parking area at the park may make this less ideal.

#### Tree Planting

Meredith reported back to the Council regarding tree giveaways. She noted that the 10 Million Trees application requires a good bit of information. Meredith will send the application to Shanna for input from the Public Works department. Neil will forward Shanna information about urban and utility friendly trees. Other organizations noted included the PA Horticultural Society’s Tree Tenders program and the New Jersey Tree Foundation.

### **Plan Review**

#### Village Design Guidelines

The Council reviewed the Village Design Guidelines document drafted in November 2011. Like the Village Concept Plan, this document was never officially adopted by the Township. Jeff Smith noted that the guidelines have not been distributed to developers over the past decade. Patti noted that much of Eagle Village does not adhere to the guidelines, but rather appears like the examples in the plan of what to avoid. Nonetheless, it was the consensus of the Council that the guidelines to be generally positive, and offered the following suggestions for any upcoming revision of the Plan: upgrading streetlights to LED bulbs, maintaining an inventory of streetlights for expedited replacement, carefully selecting street trees for an urban environment, continued and expanded use of alleyways behind commercial buildings, and expanding pedestrian trail connections.

#### Comprehensive Plan

The group briefly discussed the remainder of the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) that they have not yet reviewed at a meeting. This includes Chapter 7: Implementation and the Appendices. Chapter 7 largely describes how the entire Comp Plan will be implemented, with assignments for the Board, Planning Commission and Manager. Given the EAC’s recent formation, the group had no comments on this chapter, other than the suggestion that most things not completed should likely remain on the implementation list for the revised plan.

The Comp Plan appendices include demographic information which will be updated with statistics from the 2020 Census. Neil noted that there is an upcoming meeting to discuss an update to the Sustainable Communities Assessment. The older version of this assessment is included as Appendices 5 and 6 of the 2014 Comp Plan. He noted that this document is formatted peculiarly and includes a lot of municipal jargon. Shanna noted that, while not particularly functional as a guide, the assessment largely aligns with the EAC goals, e.g., connecting trails, limiting carbon emissions, and improving water quality. If they are available, members of the EAC may attend the upcoming meeting regarding the plan.

### **Open Session**

Regarding the Water Protection Fee, Jeff suggested that Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) should be notified when there is information to share about the fee implementation, credit programs, etc. This will allow the HOAs to prepare things like regulations for installing rain barrels. It was further suggested that stormwater information could be included in the Police Department's annual meeting with the HOA representatives.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the EAC will be held Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the Township Building.

### **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Shanna Lodge