

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council
January 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Elizabeth Jenkins, Lauren McKinney, Allen Prindle, Melissa Tier, Susan Kelly, James Verdi, Phil Coleman, Corey Ullman

Housekeeping

Elizabeth announces that she and Claudia Cueto have re-upped as full members of the council for another three years; Nancy English also has taken on another three-year term.

Elizabeth asks that if any members meet someone they think would be a good fit for the council, please consider passing their name along.

Summary of EAC 2018 activities

* Lauren suggests the council summarize its activities for April's Borough Council meeting and possibly for publication in the Swarthmorean since many people in town are still unaware of the EAC and what it does. Elizabeth agrees to do so with the help of Corey.

- Held many conversations around the Trust for Public Lands partnership.
- Created the Park Committee
- Created the EAC Facebook page
- Held a public Q & A with borough resident and lighting expert Billy Hodges on concerns of some residents about the cosmetic effects of the borough switching to LED streetlights. The EAC wrote a follow-up letter to the the borough with recommendations for improvement. The borough website was updated as a result.
- Corey and Elizabeth organized an event in March focused on the quality of borough water supplies, led by resident and water expert Tracy Bouvette.
- Annie started pursuing Audubon Bird Town requirements.
- Elizabeth and Lauren attended PA EAC conference.
- Susan and Matt organized Little Crum Creek Park cleanups in April, with CRC Watersheds, in June and in November, with members of the SHHS National Honor Society.
- Hosted a borough mulch booth at Eco Arts Fair in April.
- Invited local resident and biologist Colin Purrington to discuss use of lawn pesticides and how to best combat ticks and mosquitoes.
- Submitted date for Green Power Partnership
- Braintrust for borough recycling changes
- Phil presented recap of Swarthmore's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study and Action Plan.
- Drafted letter asking for safety study of Mariner East Pipeline II, which was signed by borough council.
- Corey wrote an article for the Swarthmorean on the environmental threat of the Spotted Lanternfly.
- Release of CORPOS plan
- Met with Michael Matotek of Swarthmore's Tree Street Committee to learn about the committee's street tree survey; supported funding of it.

- Jen organized a table at the borough farmer's market on composting and how to combat ticks and mosquitoes
 - Under Annie's guidance, successfully convinced borough council to sign on to the PA cap-and-trade petition submitted to the state's Environmental Quality Board.
- Allen asks Melissa if Swarthmore College has signed the petition. Melissa says not yet but she believes it will. Elizabeth notes there is a February meeting with the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Recycling

Allen mentions he had asked if the town had any data on behavioral changes in residential recycling. It's been noted that more residents are taking paper, aluminum and cardboard to the recycling center.

Lauren says she'll share with the EAC the next monthly report she gets from Jane on recycling numbers.

Discussion on need to sit tight on any new recycling information for now because the borough's contract is through 2019 and any discussion with residents about changes would be premature and confusing.

Allen says there is a role for the EAC to help find the best ways to push recycling forward.

It's noted that Jane Billings wants to keep the recycling information to residents simple -- reduction, no bags, and carefully wash out containers. For now, bring just paper and aluminum to recycling center.

Elizabeth tells Melissa it would be great to get an update later in the year on Swarthmore College's zero-waste reduction efforts.

Looking ahead to 2019

- Lauren mentions there is an opening on the Street Tree Committee.
- Provide opportunity for residents to drop off their compost at every farmers market. Susan says she's also working on helping the market move to zero waste and be free of plastic bags. Working with Back to Earth Compost Crew, which would pick up compost material at the market for \$5 bucket.
- Possibly discuss making town businesses a plastic straw-free zone (following Narberth efforts)
- Recycling communication
- More on ticks and mosquitoes prevention
- Continue pursuing Audubon Bird Town requirements (Annie).
- Data collection for Green Power Partnership ... need update on how much of the borough's energy use is renewable. Phil says he will write to DVRC head about how to make collection of data easier.

Elizabeth is an alternate on the Planning Commission and says there is a green point worksheet allowing residents to get a break on permit fees for certain efforts made toward greening their houses.

Susan notes the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 program is really doing a push in Delaware County toward 100 percent renewable energy.

- MMEAC (Multimunicipal EAC) will meet again to address sustainable environmental practices in our four communities and how to best educate residents.

Little Crum Creek

Susan says there will be a meeting about Little Crum Creek Park planting (CORPOS) and access plans with Public Works representatives on Thursday, Jan. 24. More to come...