

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council

April 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members and Associate Members: Danielle Callahan, Quincy Carpenter, Phil Coleman, Nancy English, Elizabeth Jenkins, Susan Kelly, Matt McCabe, Lauren McKinney (Borough Council Representative), Allen Prindle, Melissa Tier, Corey Ullman

Speakers and guests: Sierra Club Ready for 100 representatives and Swarthmore College students

Ready for 100 Presentation:

The topic was introduced by Sue Edwards. Paula Kline presented the Southeast Pennsylvania Ready for 100 campaign. Swarthmore student Samantha Goins presented information about the energy efficiency and clean energy programs on the Swarthmore College campus. Jocelyn Bowser Bostick finished the discussion. The Sierra Club Ready for 100 Campaign is asking Swarthmore Borough to join the campaign officially by adopting a resolution in Borough Council to transition to clean renewable energy. A draft resolution was presented for review, revision and possible adoption. Several other municipalities or groups of municipalities in Southeastern Pennsylvania have already joined. Elizabeth asked for information about some of the plans that these municipalities had adopted and the EAC agreed to further review and discuss the resolution and to share it with the Multi-Municipal Environmental Committee.

Recycling Update:

Recycling analysis from Borough shows that the amount of recycling continues to increase as the amount of trash declines by similar percentages. Swarthmore Borough is investigating options for the next recycling contract. Our recycling is now handled by a new processing facility in King of Prussia. The company wants all of our mixed recycling including glass, which is ground and used as a landfill cover. Their focus is reducing contamination in the recycling stream. The curbside recycling will still take paper and cardboard but the Borough is paid for the paper dropped at the recycling center, so wants to continue to encourage its use. There have been complaints that the paper recycling dumpster is often full. This may be a sign of success in getting the word to the community to use the recycling center. The Borough is expecting to put out two bids and let the selected hauler decide the destination of the recycled material. Jane Billings is interested in exploring options with the EAC.

Outreach Events:

Committee members will be at the Farmers' Market May 25 and at the Fun Fair May 19. A decision was made to purchase re-useable produce bags to give away as prizes at these events. Steel straws were rejected because of concerns that they might be thrown away and because the quality is unknown.

Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting on March 26th, 2019 were approved.

Other topics were deferred to next month due to insufficient time for discussion

Recording secretary for the meeting,

Nancy English