

**Swarthmore EAC Meeting via Zoom
Minutes – November 24, 2020**

Attendees: Present: Elizabeth Jenkins (co-chair), Annie Fox (co-chair), Lauren McKinney, Betsy Larson, Sue Edwards, Susan Kelly, Milton Meyer, Susie O'Donnell, Jennifer Pfluger, Allen Prindle, Robin Schaufler, Nancy English (reporting), Paul Spiegel – Practical Energy Solutions (guest)

Presentation and discussion with Paul Spiegel

Paul is a partner in Practical Energy Solutions (an energy consulting group).

- Practical Energy Solutions is currently working with municipalities that are committed to Ready for 100, helping them through the process to reach their goals.
- They worked with Swarthmore Borough in 2011 to prepare energy and environmental guidelines that were delivered in 2013 as a Municipal Energy Management Toolbox for Delaware County (distributed to the email list).
- They worked with Swarthmore Borough again to develop a plan for upgrades to borough buildings in 2016. Paul will send the 2016 plan to Elizabeth.
- They work with municipalities, local governments, schools, religious organizations and have experience with options for energy sourcing, working with stakeholder groups, promoting renewable energy purchasing and other aspects of sustainable energy.
- They could be available for more work for Swarthmore Borough if we get a grant in the future.

General EAC Budget Requests Update (Update from Lauren McKinney)

- Borough taxes have not been raised in several years so this year taxes may be raised.
- Overall, 2021 will be a tight year.
- Ideas being considered include looking into regionalizing police and fire because maintaining our own fire department is 6% of the budget and the police chief wants an additional officer.
- Concerning the environmental request, it is quite small relative to the total budget, so the items will still be requested. The solar installation on the roof of Borough Hall is part of the capital budget which is not part of the annual request.
- The preliminary budget will be advertised with a 2.25% tax increase (averaging about \$30/year per household) with public comment to be submitted in time for the next budget meeting.

Comments on Consolidated Solar Permit Application and Information Sheet

- Information page should have a paragraph explaining all the steps.
- Information page should also include the PECO requirement to upgrade the local grid to be able to receive the electricity.
- Elizabeth will share suggestions with Jane.

EAC Housekeeping

- Meeting minutes from October approved with a minor correction.
- Elizabeth working on information about proper disposal of refrigerants.
- The email list has been updated so use the email list from the email sent by Elizabeth on Monday, November 23.
- Management of membership
 - The current slate of associate members will be approved by Borough Council and listed on the website as specified in the ordinance and then possible changes to the ordinance will be discussed at a future meeting.
 - New voting members will be appointed in January and listed on the website.
 - Members of the public can also attend EAC meetings without being named voting or associate members.
 - One position for a voting member is open and will be sent to members to be forwarded to others to recruit a new member.
 - Looking into recruiting a high schooler to be part of the EAC either now or after the health crisis is finally over.
- No meeting in December. Next meeting January 26, 2021.