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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PECO Project Update

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania- The Borough held a project update meeting with PECO representatives, the Borough Council President, Environment Committee Chair, the Mayor, Borough Manager, Borough Solicitor and Borough Engineer on Monday, October 24, 2022 at Borough Hall. The focus of the meeting was for PECO to provide the Borough with an update on the project that was previously discussed in December of 2021.

During PECO’s initial conversations with the Borough and listening to the concerns of the community in 2021, PECO pledged to revisit the project and meet with the Borough prior to moving forward. In 2021, PECO proposed to remove ninety-five (95) trees within the Borough as well as increase the utility pole height from a 35’/40’ to a 45’/50’ pole. The project also proposed to upgrade distribution lines from 4k volt distribution to 13k volt distribution.

During the October 24, 2022 meeting, the Borough learned that the pole height would be 45’/50’ and they would need to remove one hundred and twenty-four (124) trees in order to accomplish the energy upgrade, as well as the need to trim many other trees. PECO asserted that the upgrade was necessary to reduce outages, that the existing 4k distribution lines reduce the ability for residents to install electric vehicle charging stations and reduce the ability to install solar unless the lines are increased to 13k volts.

PECO is a recognized public utility and is provided certain rights and obligations by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). The PUC limits the authority and powers of the Borough with regards to this proposed project.

PECO representatives stated that they will be contacting affected property owners and will invite them to attend an in-person open house on the project. PECO also stated that they will also hold a separate virtual meeting for anyone not impacted by the project who would like to learn more about the project. The Borough will provide any additional information concerning this project as we receive it.

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