

EAC Meeting
6.28.22
APPROVED 7/26/22

In attendance: Susan Kelly, Margaret Betz, Sue Edwards, Scarlett McCahill, Elizabeth Jenkins, Carol Nackenoff, Allen Prindle, Jennifer Pfluger, Phil Coleman

Guest: Shirley Dodson

Public Comment: Shirley Dodson is interested in joining the Birdtown Committee; active Audubon Member.

EAC Housekeeping

-5.26.22 Meeting Minutes Approved

-EAC will be doing a Farmer's Market Table on July 23rd - Recycling sorting activity, Native Plant Finder and Solarize DelCo Links. Let Elizabeth know if there are any other activities/information that you'd like to include. Elizabeth will circulate a sign up for volunteers to man the table. Tree Committee would also like to invite us to table with them on 8/20.

Updates

-Eco-Audits: Elizabeth shared that 14 Eco-Audits are in the process of being scheduled. Same number as last year; fewer people expressed an interest despite same advertising strategy – maybe people are on vacation this time of year? Consider offering a spring or fall option?

-Zero Waste (Updates by Jennifer Pfluger)

- Farmer's Market Zero Waste partnership: Pat Francher is excited to have the EAC working with the Market on their waste reduction goals and has committed to having a bagless market by the beginning of October. To accomplish that needs the following:
 - Help getting the word out: Susie and Jennifer are working on a publicity strategy and content to share with the community.
 - To collect reusable bags from community members or businesses (to then give out at the Market as a transitional step)
 - Collection bin at Borough Hall?
 - Volunteers to hand out the bags for the first 3 Markets in October. Needs 6 volunteers – 2 people for each entrance.
 - Use local student groups that need community serve hour opportunities? 4H, Boy Scouts, etc. Sue will connect Jennifer with the National Honor Society POC.
- Single Use Plastic Biz Survey
 - Reviewed survey data (will forward presentation to email list)
 - 23 of 49 biz responded. Of the businesses who use single use plastics, all responded that they use 25 or fewer per day. (One exception would be the College Bookstore which gives out 3,000 bags for student books. Said in a focus group that it would be different practice to change)

- Lots of support for business support on both single use plastic reduction education, group purchasing options, recycling resources
- Next steps: Use the Farmer's Market change as a springboard to introduce the concept to a wider audience; Survey Borough residents; Loop in Green Advisors to create resources for businesses, put forward and implement best practices, etc.

-Birdtown: Welcome to Shirley Dodson who is interested in joining the Birdtown Committee; Margaret has been in touch with the Pastor of Swarthmore Presbyterian to see their pollinator garden and talk to them about the Birdtown program. Julie Ellis volunteered via email to have people come visit her backyard as a part of a Native Plant Garden Tour – perhaps we could organize this as a wider program as a part of the application. We will send Shirley the draft application and she, Margaret, and John can update it and present at the next meeting. We will then present the application and the sample resolution language to the Environment Committee when it next meets (might be Fall).

-DelCo Solar Project (Sue Edwards): Delaware County Council has entered into an agreement to set up a solar farm near the prison. 75% of the power will go to the prison, the rest can be shared with the community (though PJM has requested that no new renewable energy projects come on the grid that share power for at least 2 years which will likely cause delays). Delaware County is also looking to increase electric car charging capacity in the County (400 charging units), especially in low and moderate income areas, and encourage the buying of used EVs. The County is also looking to partner with the prison to provide career training in electric car charging system installation.

-Borough Council (Scarlett): Scarlett and Francie will attend the Delaware County Zero Waste Plan Workshop in Chester on June 30th. Other EAC Members may wish to attend as well.

ARPA Fund Requests and Prioritization: Total for all Borough requests is \$660,000. Form must be filled out by July 6th and submitted to the Finance Committee.

Possible Ideas

Solar projects: Borough Roof, Solar parking lot canopy (with electric car charging capacity)

Electric trucks: To add to or replace fleet, as needed

Ready for 100 Marketing Campaign: Yard signs, banner for train station, info for Borough Hall

Parks: Funds for non-pesticide based mosquito and pest control, native plants (Birdtown)

Recycling: Better signage for park and town recycling bins, new steps for recycling center

Zero Waste: Town compost program pilot, Pay as You Throw program

Group consensus was that we should go big with the solar ask. The most detailed proposal that we currently have is the solar project for Borough Hall. Phil Coleman will be meeting with the solar parking lot canopy design/install company tomorrow (6/29) but we will not likely have enough specifics to submit as a part of this funding request (same with the zero waste ideas). Elizabeth sent information on electric trucks to Francie, Chair of the Public Works Committee,

and Bill Webb, Borough Manager, and we will continue to bring that issue up. We can also ask for funding for less costly ideas during the regular budget process. Elizabeth and Phil will submit the application for the Borough Hall Rooftop solar array on behalf of the EAC.

Meeting adjourned.