

ROSS TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 19, 2023 7:00 PM

In attendance: Deemer, Finkenbinder, Hockenberry, Hulle, Schawalder

Absent: Gill

Staff: Adam Ravenstahl

Meeting Called to Order at 7:02 PM

Approval of Minutes for November, 2022. Motion by Deemer, Second by Schawalder Passed Unanimously.

1. Public Comments
 - a. Darlene Didonato comment on landscaping services RFQ review and Ordinance review and requesting to see work produce
 - b. Kelley Wasicek thanked the EAC for work on Landslide Study; requested assistance in identifying professionals to help private property with landslide issues.
2. Nomination for Chair:
 - a. Jennifer Deemer nominated by Hockenberry, second by Hulle, Passed Unanimously
3. Nomination for Vice Chair:
 - a. Cody Gill nominated by Finkenbinder, second by Hockenberry Passed Unanimously
4. Nomination for Secretary
 - a. Susan Hockenberry, nominated by Hockenberry, second by Deemer, Passed Unanimously
5. 2023 Goals
 - a. Hulle presented list of 2023 Goals as prepared for the Board of Supervisor and requested discussion about suggested additions or changes. The following additions were recommended:
 - i. Continue building the North Hills EAC network to foster intergovernmental knowledge-sharing, communication, collaboration and assistance.
 - ii. Climate Action Plan - Review CONNECT Multi-Municipal Climate Action Plan to continue to evaluate and decide on eventual recommendations to the Commissioner. Hockenberry will invite CONNECT to present at the February Meeting.
 - iii. EAC to take a leadership role in promoting Township recycling programs:
 1. Assist in increasing clarity on what the Township recycling program is
 2. Examining/promoting the potential reduction of the waste stream given the high number of retail/commercial properties in the township.
 3. Examining and promoting ways to reduce and eliminate the purchase of single use containers such as bulk food purchasing, refillery events, farmer's markets.
 4. Promote awareness that the township's brown bag recycling Program has expanded (yard waste) and encourage the diversion of yard waste to landfill.
 5. Research Composting/Food Waste Program. Start with possible credit towards home/on site composters, such as provided for Rainbarrels.
 - iv. Develop a Community Days Out Reach Plan. There are 5 that the EAC could table at:
 1. Denny Park on Saturday, May 13, 2023;
 2. Herge Park on Saturday, July 8, 2023;
 3. Scharmyn Park on Saturday, July 29, 2023;

4. Bruno Sammartino Park on Saturday, August 12, 2023;
5. Evergreen Park on Saturday, September 16, 2023.
6. Landscape Ordinance Review
 - a. Review of the response to the RFQ was tabled at last meeting. The next step will be an RFP for the EAC to OK prior to issuance.
7. Community Involvement
 - a. Youth Community Outreach - Jr. EAC Member Sydney Burkhard in attendance tonight. A second student may be joining the EAC.
 - b. Earth Day Rain Garden program, Stream Restoration, and park program plans were presented by Eloise Peet, Director of Parks & Recreation, and the EAC is invited to support and participate as desired.
 - c. Parks Department will schedule PRC for the Rain Barrell workshop. Eloise will let the EAC know when scheduled.
8. Miscellaneous
 - a. Zoom or In-Person meeting discussion took place
 - i. Motion by Kristen Schwalder to switch meetings to In-person / Hybrid format; Second by Hulle, Passed Unanimously.
 - ii. Zoom Panelist request should be made directly to Adam Ravenstahl so that he may send link prior to meeting; otherwise the understanding is that all will be in person.
 - b. February 6, 2023 is the likely date for the Commissioners to fill current vacancy.
9. Motion to Adjourn by Schwalder, Second by Deemer, passed unanimously.
10. Adjourn 8:05 PM
11. Next meeting: February 16, 2023, 7 PM, Ross Township Municipal Complex, 1000 Ross Municipal Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan G. Hockenberry