

## Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2013

7:30 PM

Conference Room D

### **Mt Lebanon Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board**

#### **Attendees:**

Andrew Baram  
Patrick Eberz  
Matthew Hoover  
Kathleen Hrabovsky  
Maria Joseph  
Kristen Linfante, Commission Liaison  
Tom Kelley, Staff Liaison & Public Works Director

#### **Absent:**

Steve Noorbakhsh  
Pam Scott  
Scott Goldman, School Board Liaison

#### **Others in Attendance:**

Lucas Nash, Mt. Lebanon High School Students  
Maggie Dugan, Mt. Lebanon High School Students  
Liam Shi, Mt. Lebanon High School Students  
Daniel Little, Professional Engineer, Carnegie Mellon University

**Call to order:** The official meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson Hrabovsky.

#### **Approval of August 8, 2013 meeting minutes:**

Patrick Eberz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with corrects which was seconded by Kathy Hrabovsky and approved by the board members.

**Public Comment:** Chairperson Hrabovsky introduced Dan Little; a recent graduate from Carnegie Mellon University who was interested in becoming more involved in local sustainability issues.

#### **School Board Business**

Maggie and Liam both indicated that they wanted to work on biking strategies and will be discussing their ideas with the Environmental Club at their meeting in October. They will need financial support to continue on with their projects. The board briefly discussed the use of Styrofoam plates in the school lunch program. Once work is completed on the high school, the use of Styrofoam plates and plastic silverware will be discontinued and replaced with reusable

dishes and metal silverware. The change will only take place at the high school. The middle and elementary schools will continue to use Styrofoam and plastic. Andrew reported that the Pennsylvania Resources Counsel and the Appliance Warehouse both recycle white Styrofoam; however, the Styrofoam must be clean. The high school student's reported that composting is taking place in the high school. The compost was used for Earth Day presentation. The student suggested writing a letter to the school board about having buses from other schools stop idling during events held in the Mt. Lebanon School District. Maria will be working with Girl Scout groups in spread the "no idling" message. The PTA is another resource to use for spreading the "no idling" message. Lucas needs to have a non-profit corporation participate in the sponsorship of his project. It must be a 501(C) 3 corporate. Andrew reported that he has not heard back from Carl Salemi, Mt. Lebanon High School Director of Facilities, on composting.

### **Commission Business**

**Pay As You Throw:** Kristen reported that the commission is in favor of Pay As You Throw. She provided a description of the SHACOG bid process and indicated Pay As You Throw as a viable primary service option. She explained that most residents think that trash and recycling are free, however; education is needed and essential to inform residents that there is a cost for these services, a cost that they should be bearing. Andrew further explained the transportation/pick-up cost and the disposal cost associated with municipal solid waste collection. A lengthy discussion followed. Kristen suggested that a write-in campaign be organized to have residents send letters to their commissions in support of Pay As You Throw. Kathy suggested that an email campaign would be effective. The message could also be put on Facebook and Twitter. The EAB will promote Pay As You Throw and Andrew will put together a blurb to send out with the emails.

**Climate Action Plan Update:** Members of the board discussed the importance of participating in the Climate Action Plan strategies. Rain barrels and rain gardens should be promoted. At the next meeting Tom will briefly report on the feasibility and cost of installing a rain garden or bio swale on the hillside behind the parking lot at Church Place Park. A rain garden is being installed as part of the Cedar Boulevard Parking Lot Project.

**Sidewalk Policy:** The sidewalk policy is silent on the issue of storm water although the comprehensive plan has some ideas on pervious paving. Members of the board feel that it is very important to consider storm water runoff whenever installing new sidewalks.

**Comprehensive Plan Document:** The comprehensive plan is very heavy on green infrastructure initiatives and biking and pedestrian activities.

**ESB Business:** Abby and Kathy attended and participated in an energy fair at Regent Square. This provided a chance for home owners to meet energy advocates and contractors. G-Tech and Duquesne Light did outreach at the event, as well as, Black and Gold Goes Green.

**Environmental Team:** Andrew reported that the Environmental Team went over a rough list of priorities for 2013/2014. They will work closely with the Environmental Sustainability Board on environmental initiatives.

**Sustainable Pittsburgh:** Meeting was put off this month.

**Website:** Andrew needs help from students to maintain the Lebo Green website. Liam reported that the High School Environmental Team could keep the website updated. He will meet with the Environmental Team to further discuss maintaining the website.

**Other Issues:** Both Andrew and Kathy reported they would like to get solid support from all ESB board members on the project list that was previously distributed. The board needs to make sure that all members maintain a high level of commitment to the Environmental Sustainability Board and its projects. Some of board members have not made a firm commitment and frequently miss meetings or do not participate in the board's activities. This will be further discussed at the next board meeting.

**Adjournment:** Chairperson Hrabovsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm which was seconded by Patrick Eberz. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.