

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2013

7:30 PM

Conference Room D

Mt Lebanon Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board

Attendees: Andrew Baram
Patrick Eberz
Kathleen Hrabovsky
Maria Joseph
Pam Scott
Abby Lawler-Morycz, Mt. Lebanon Environmental Team

Absent: Steve Noorbakhsh
Matthew Hoover
Scott Goldman, School Board Liaison
Kristen Linfante, Commission Liaison
Tom Kelley, Staff Liaison & Public Works Director

High School Students: Lucas Nash, Mt. Lebanon High School Student

Others in Attendance: None

Call to order: Chairperson Hrabovsky called the official meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Approval of October 10, 2013 meeting minutes: Andrew Baram made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, with minor revisions, which was seconded by Maria Joseph and the minutes were unanimously approved by the board members. (Minor revisions: under ESB Business-gTech Strategies - change the name Amy to Abby.)

Public Comment: Not available.

SCHOOL BOARD BUSINESS

High School Liaison Updates: Lucas Nash discussed his project and the problems that he faced in coordinating the funding of his proposal. Even though the Mt. Lebanon Partnership and the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy were suggested as funding channels, the Breathe Project has not been able to find a 501(c)(3) organization in Mt. Lebanon that is willing to provide the channel required to fund Lucas's project. ESB members congratulated Lucas on his efforts, but, unfortunately, Lucas may not be able to complete his project due to the lack of funding. As part of the conversation, Pam Scott volunteered to work with the Mt. Lebanon Environmental Team to obtain 501(c)(3) status in order to apply for grants and to provide a funding channel for environmental efforts. Kathy Hrabovsky encouraged the Board to support the high school liaisons as they compete for funding through PA American Water for the Energy Camel Project via a Facebook vote site.

School Composting, Recycling & High School Construction Updates: Abby Lawler-Morycz and Suzanne Stamatov, Mt. Lebanon Environmental Team members, have volunteered to co-chair the PTSA's Environmental Team. As such, they will assist Andrew Baram in coordinating recycling (which may include new efforts to recycle clean, white styrofoam) and composting efforts at Mt. Lebanon High School (and

possibly other schools within the District) with Mr. McFeeley, the High School Principal, Tazeen Chowdhury, the District Food Service Director, and Carl Salemi, the District Director of Facilities. Abby & Suzanne will also coordinate with Mr. Bergstresser and the high school liaisons to increase High School Environmental Team participation in Mt. Lebanon Environmental Team projects. This will include sending no-idling information to each school in the District, and sending information related to the number of children in each school who have diagnosed cases of asthma (or other respiratory illnesses) to each school in the District. All agreed that, due to the high school construction project, the timing is right to encourage a more comprehensive recycling program by providing appropriate space for recycling areas, by encouraging staff to recycle properly, and to explore an expansion of the recycling program to include styrofoam and composting. High School construction updates were not available.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Recycling Issue: Andrew Baram provided a summary of the Monday, 10/28, Commission Meeting: the Commission appears to be more open to the implementation of a PAYT program due to compelling information gathered by Andrew Baram, Abby Lawler-Morycz & Suzanne Stamatov in their recent calls to PAYT communities. The information gathering included calls to public works directors, municipal managers and other leaders within the communities. All those contacted reported that any political hurdles existing at the start of the programs were overcome by the success of the PAYT programs. They reported that residents were content with the more equitable distribution of the cost of trash removal, based on the residents' willingness to recycle, and with the economic savings to their communities. Though most of the information was obtained from the Northeastern US, the communities ranged from low-income, to moderate-income, to wealthy communities, and were demographically similar to Mt. Lebanon in other respects. Andrew encouraged the Board to continue to communicate with their Commissioners, particularly those responsible for individual members' wards, to encourage adoption of a PAYT program in Mt. Lebanon.

Comprehensive Plan: Keith McGill will present a summary of the Mt. Lebanon Comprehensive Plan, highlighting issues related to sustainability, at the December ESB meeting.

Climate Action Plan Update: Patrick Eberz is preparing a case study of Freightliner trucks, a manufacturer that provides natural gas vehicles that may be appropriate for use by Public Works. Patrick will present this case study to the ESB and to Tom Kelley, when it is available. Maria Joseph will explore grant opportunities that would permit the Municipality to purchase recycling and/or composting bins and then offer the bins to residents on a free or reduced cost basis. Maria will explore participation in this type of program by Rollier's and by the Municipality, including storage of the bins on the Public Works site. Maria will present this information at a future ESB meeting.

ESB BUSINESS

G-Tech Strategies Reenergize Pittsburgh: Abby Lawler-Morycz reported on her energy audit, summarizing the possible unsafe conditions of her gas-fired appliances, recommended strategies for her attic and basement, and the fact that her air changes per hour (ACH) were not extreme for a home that is approximately 50 years old. Pam Scott recommended reaching out to the community with an online survey or website that might be more user-friendly than excel to encourage greater residential participation in energy or water data gathering. Abby Lawler-Morycz and Andrew Baram discussed the possibilities of incorporating a user-friendly tool with the LeboGreen website revisions that are in process. Maria Joseph suggested incorporating the idea into the Mt. Lebanon Magazine online blog tool. All agreed that these user-friendly tools might be more successful, so Abby will discuss the possibility with the marketing representative working on the LeboGreen website and Kathy Hrabovsky will explore options on Mt. Lebanon Magazine's blog site. If Lucas Nash finds funding for his Breathe Project proposal, he may also blog on energy & water savings as well.

Environmental Team Updates: The Mt. Lebanon Environmental Team set the date for Earthday Mt. Lebanon for Saturday, 4/26/2014. The Team may include a film festival and expanded music program in 2014.

Sustainable Pittsburgh: Kathy Hrabovsky & Maria Joseph will attend the Sustainability Coordinators Meeting on Tuesday, 11/19, 11:30-1pm, Thelma Lovette YMCA. Kathy & Maria will also attend the Sustainability EXPOsed Event, Tuesday, 12/10, 8:30am-4pm. Abby will circulate information on Sustainability EXPOsed on the LeboGreen website.

Grant Opportunity Update: See above for Energy Camel info and recycling/composting bin info.

League of Women Voters of PA: Kathy Hrabovsky will attend the free League of Women Voters Event, “Shale Gas Drilling and Public Health: A Day of Discovery”, Saturday, 11/23, 9am-5pm, John Heinz History Center.

Green Infrastructure: Kathy Hrabovsky encouraged members to attend the events listed on the agenda, since she is not able to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

New Business: Kathy Hrabovsky will request that Steve Noorbakhsh submit a formal letter of resignation to the Commission, if he has not done so already, so the Commission can add voting on a new member of the ESB on an upcoming agenda. Kathy will also determine where the Minutes of ESB meetings are listed on the Municipal website. ESB members are still not able to find the listing.

Adjournment: At 9:30 p.m. Patrick Eberz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Pam Scott and unanimously approved. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 12/12/2013, 7:30 pm, Conference Room D. Please be prompt to permit Keith McGill the time required to present the Comprehensive Plan before leaving for a required Zoning Board Meeting.