

## Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2014

7:30 PM

Conference Room C

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

#### **Attendees:**

Kathleen Hrabovsky, Chair  
Andrew Baram, Co-chair  
Patrick Eberz  
Pam Scott  
Bonnie Cross, Staff Liaison & Assistant to the Manager

#### **Absent:**

Abby Lawler Morycz  
Maria Joseph  
Elaine Cappucci, School District Liaison  
Kelly Fraasch, Commission Liaison

#### **High School Students:**

No high school student liaisons were present at this meeting.

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

Charlotte Stevenson, resident  
Kimberly Schevtchuk, resident  
Bonnie Dougherty, PTA Chair, Washington Elementary

**Call to order:** The official meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Hrabovsky

**Public Comment:** Charlotte Stevenson read a letter that she sent to the Commission regarding the effect that artificial turf has on persons with asthma and her concerns regarding the installation of artificial turf near her residence. Kimberly Schevtchuk voiced her concerns about the health impacts of artificial turf. Bonnie Dougherty informed the Board of a program that she coordinates at Washington Elementary through Terra-Cycle that earns funding for certain recyclables. She provided information and an explanation and hopes to encourage the other schools to participate.

**Approval of February and March Meeting Minutes:** Andrew made a correction to “ESB Award 2014” by adding the name of one of the award nominees, Robert Doherty, to the March minutes. Pam corrected a statement under “Pay-As-You-Throw” from ‘within the *school district*’ to ‘within the *municipality*’ in the February minutes.

Pam motioned to approve the February and March minutes; Patrick seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved.

### **School Board Business**

**High School Liaisons:** Kathy stated that she wanted to reach out to Mr. Bergstressor, the head of the Environmental Club, to invite new high school liaisons to begin working with the ESB at their June meeting and work over the summer and fall. Kathy also reported that the high school liaisons were collecting pens. Also, they are moving ahead with the energy camels.

**Composting Pilot:** Elaine sent an email that said the costs were very high for the composting pilot. Andrew explained that the Facilities Director and Food Service Director had been in touch with Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC), which was nothing that had been discussed before. Whatever had been discussed, the cost was very high. Andrew said that he asked Elaine if he could speak directly to those directors and is awaiting her response. Andrew stated that it would require an educational component, but that it should be cost-neutral. Kathy added that from her experience, AgRecycle was cost-neutral. She also stated that Zero Waste might be able to do this, but would need a large client.

### **Commission Business**

**Pay-As-You-Throw:** The PAYT committee meeting is scheduled for April 21. Republic/Allied, the current waste provider, will be in attendance. Steve Lasauskas from Waste-Zero will also be here. Kelly had suggested a public forum for that night. People that do that for a living will be there to dispel the myths surrounding it. Patrick questioned whether there would be multiple companies and Andrew advised that Waste-Zero was unique in providing this service. Andrew stated that the main reason that communities implement PAYT is to save money and that it absolutely does that. He also stated that the Commission was on record in stating that whatever the community saved on PAYT if it were implemented, there would be a commensurate reduction in our millage.

The ESB members present voted unanimously to conduct a public forum on April 21. Bonnie was asked to check on a meeting room for 6:00 p.m.

**Artificial Turf Update:** A public forum has been scheduled for April 30, 7:00 – 8:30 in the Commission Chambers, to be held in conjunction with the Sierra Club. The members present also discussed the timeline for donations and installation of the turf. A copy of the flier for the forum was distributed to the board.

Also, the design diagrams regarding the turf installation was shared with the board. The project will be put out for bid on May 15. Patrick stated that he was happy that some of the ESB concerns had been addressed in the design.

**Recycling Cans in the Parks:** The members present voted unanimously on a statement to be provided to the Commission regarding recycling cans:

*The ESB supports the installation of receptacles to collect recyclable materials in our parks and on our main streets. We would like the following to be considered as part of this initiative:*

- 1. Monitoring the usage of the receptacles to determine how often they are being used, which would allow for pick-ups to be adjusted accordingly.*
- 2. Evaluating how much it would cost and if there is cost savings, to have a large receptacle stored on Public Works property and have municipal workers also collect recyclable materials from the parks to be placed in this receptacle vs. having the vendor pick up from the receptacles from the individual parks.*

Kathy stated that if there were a savings, the program could be expanded, and possibly be offered free to businesses. Bonnie was asked to check with Tom Kelley on how close the municipality is to implementing this.

### **ESB Business**

**Revisions to ESB Mission, Duties, Membership, and Accomplishments Update:** The members present discussed two mission statements and voted unanimously to have the following mission statement and duties on the ESB web page:

#### ***Mission Statement:***

*Our mission is to advise the Mt. Lebanon Commission and Mt. Lebanon School Board on matters relating to environmental sustainability.*

*(This was very confusing. I watched the video several times, but could not determine which mission statement was voted on. Above is my best guess)*

#### ***Duties:***

- 1. Advise the Mt. Lebanon Commission and Mt. Lebanon School Board on matters relating to sustainability, programs, goods and services;*
- 2. Explore programs and practices that promote public awareness on matters relating to sustainability;*
- 3. Monitor municipal and school environmental efforts;*
- 4. Recommend implementation of sustainable strategies for municipal and school district facilities and programs.*

It was also recommended that the link for the Environmental Team be moved to the bottom of the page as a resource.

### **ESB Award 2014**

There was a brief discussion regarding the three nominated candidates: Bob Hedin, Susan Stamatov and Robert Doherty. The member present decided to get input from all members regarding the award recipient. No decision was made at the meeting. The award will be presented at the Earth Day celebration, April 26, 2014.

## **Environmental Team Update:**

### **Grant Opportunity Update**

Kathy asked for an update on the Allegheny County Conservation District grant and was informed that two had been submitted, but that there was no decision yet. Kathy also explained the Alternative Fuel Innovation Grant (AFID). Patrick stated that this wasn't viable for Mt. Lebanon because there were no fueling stations. Kathy stated that the deadline for AFID was in May and the key word was 'innovation'. It might require getting other communities to join in see if through the proposal a company could build a station. Kathy asked Patrick to work on this. Andrew commented that if the vehicle warranties were the issue, then it really wouldn't be worth going through this because the warranties would be a deal-breaker. Kathy also mentioned the Optimas grant that requires vehicles to be retro-fitted to burn recycled veggie fuel. The net cost to do this per vehicle is \$5,000. She said that she would speak with Tom. We could also look into building a fueling station or use an established swipe-card system in Pittsburgh.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment:** At 9:47 p.m. Andrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Patrick and unanimously approved by the members present.