

## Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2014

### Mt Lebanon Environmental Sustainability Advisory

- **Call Meeting to Order**

**Roll Call:**

**Attendees:**

Kathy Hrabovsky, Chair  
Patrick Eberz  
Pam Scott  
Abby Lawler Morycz  
Michael Kurosky  
Kelly Fraasch, Commission Liaison

**Absent:**

Andrew Baram, Co-chair  
Maria Joseph  
Bonnie Cross, Staff Liaison

- **High School Students:**

- **Public Comment**

Nikola Ranick, Jr. Commissioner, introduced himself and explained that he was visiting each board to report back to the Commission.

- **Approval of September 2014 Minutes.** Pam motioned to approve the May minutes; Patrick seconded the motion with the following clarifications: Patrick asked that the minutes reflect that he voted against the pesticide policy because the words 'reasonably practicable' were too vague to enforce and he felt there was insufficient information regarding why the Commission did not act on it twice before. Pam noted that Kathy's last name was misspelled. All members in attendance approved with the corrections.

- **Commission Business**

- **Community Relations Board request.** The Community Relations Board sent out invitations for an ESB representative to participate in the planned forum – "Finding Help in Mt. Lebanon – A Better Living Forum" – Wednesday – 11/12 – 7-8:30pm – Municipal Building. Kathy, Patrick and Abby expressed an interest in attending. Abby felt that issues regarding assistance with cold weather coming should be addressed.
- **Parks Advisory Board/ESB Related Business.** Kathy distributed a position description for the members to discuss. Kathy used the county's Sustainability Coordinator position description as a starting point. The revised description is attached to the minutes.
- **Municipal Pesticide Use.** Pam advised that she researched various examples of temporary and permanent pesticide warning language and discussed that posting the warnings is not difficult or burdensome and suggestions of how long the signs should be posted. Pam felt that the signs should be posted where the application occurs. Kathy asked that Pam develop a list of signs and times that the signage should be posted so that the ESB could vote on a document to recommend.

- **Pay as You Throw.** Ed Reese, along with staff members Keith McGill, Tom Kelley and Andrew McCreery, were invited to attend a Commission Discussion Session that Andrew Baram and Kathy Hrabovsky were not invited to attend. In Kathy's opinion, this was not courteous. Kathy noted that, in her opinion, this was not inclusive and could be described as "bad form". Kathy and Andrew should have been invited back to present at the same time that Ed presented his opinion. Apparently, this group presented an option for an educational outreach, but no conclusions were reached. Kathy did not attend the Session and was not able to view the session on the cable stations. Andrew was able to view the Discussion Session, but, since Andrew was not able to attend the October ESB meeting, we cannot be sure exactly what the group presented. We understood that there was not a positive recommendation for PAYT as part of this presentation, which seemed to be the opposite of what the same municipal staff members recommended in the Commission Discussion Session that Kathy and Andrew attended. We also understood that some type of educational outreach program was proposed. Based on viewing the Discussion Session, Andrew Baram wrote and sent a letter to the Commission clarifying certain items from the discussion (attached). Kathy stated it took six months for the Committee to become fully educated and that PAYT is such a complicated program that it will be very difficult to educate the public on PAYT and receive a positive response in a similar amount of time.
- **Recycling in Commercial Districts and in Parks.** Kelly reported that \$10k was budgeted for park recycling containers and passed.
- **Artificial Turf.** Kelly reported that we were still waiting for a permit. There were six items and a response was submitted. Kelly also mentioned that artificial turf issues were increasing nationally and internationally, among them Hodgkins lymphoma and other cancer risks. Kelly also noted that one of the turf ingredients was latex, both in the blades and number and that many people have a sensitivity or allergy to it and that people should be made aware of it.
- **ESB Business**
  - **Environmental Team Update.** No update.
  - **Project Updates based on ESB Priority List – 2-1-14.** Kelly advised that there would be a Commission discussion regarding fleet replacement on the Capital Improvement Plan. Also related to the fleet, Kathy stated that she would like to see if there were ways to use biofuel in the city. There's an organization called Fossil-Free Fuel that can provide a 50-50 blend that requires no retro-fitting. They are located in Braddock.
- **High School Liaison Update.** No updates.
- **New Business.** Kelly advised about two charter changes that would be on the ballot – making it gender neutral and legal postings. Also, Plein Air would be starting.

Abby advised that she was still working on composting in the schools and recycling but is finding resistance from the School District staff. Kathy suggested finding a School Board member who can champion the cause of composting in the schools.

**Adjournment.** At 9:26 p.m., Patrick made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mike and unanimously approved by the members present.