

## Environmental Advisory Board Meeting Notes 2/21/12

In attendance: Bill Sabey, Rick Carbo, Barry Strittmatter, Michael VanBuren, David Huie, Walt Palac and Head of Public Works for Plymouth Township, Chris Loschiavo

Chris indicated that residents can purchase new 40-gallon recycling cans for \$25.

### Recycling:

The township's major responsibility is for residential recycling. It is a Pennsylvania state requirement that all residents and businesses recycle. Huff Assoc does hauling for Plymouth Township.

As far as Pennsylvania DEP grant money is concerned, the Township has already exceeded their expectations. Barry asked about residential recycling...in 2011, the Township recycled 1564 tons through single stream recycling. Trash is \$65 / ton. Recycling earn \$12.23 per ton. In 2011, the Township had to dispose of 4,689 tons of trash—for a total cost of over \$300,000/year. The more we can remove from the waste stream, the more money the Township can save residents. We had considered reversing the number of days for trash and recycling (from 2 and 1 to 1 and 2), but the numbers don't support it.

We are being judged by other nearby counties in performance and we are # 2 in the county. We also have once a month pickup of white goods and electrical. Almost 50 percent is recyclable. We have produced nearly 1000 tons of wood chips from yard waste. Overall, there is a total of 8,697 tons of solid waste in 2011.

In 2007, trash disposal cost 539K, but it is now only 310K.

We will do the request to get emails from commercial orgs to get education to commercial businesses. We are working on an updated usable database to send things to every business.

The biggest thing from PA DEP perspective is to educate businesses and residents...everyone has to have access to a recycling program. It is business's responsibility to find access. There is no enforcement of the program to ensure businesses are participating.

We will work to educate residents what their responsibility is...but the haulers must help to do that for commercial entities.

The trash to steam plant knows they will get written up with a load of recyclables dropped off...Bill Tobin will enforce it with the private haulers.

At this point the biggest thing that needs to be done is reinforcement and educations of residents to continue to improve recycling participation.

Chris has figured out a way to switch to 1 day recycling and 1 day trash. It would result in less fuel consumption. Trash volume would not change...just a different mode of collection—but it would have to be approved by the Supervisors and the Council.

Because with the new proposed plan, staffing will have dropped...we will be able to use the remaining manpower elsewhere and reduce full costs. In the newsletter coming out...October 31 will be the end of lawn waste until it picks up again Jan 1 for the next year.

A percentage of recyclers who require clean recyclables discard it ...and they end up in the trash to steam plant.

We need to develop a video and a write-up on what you should do to make sure everything is recycle-ready...for example water bottles will not get recycled with a cap.

Which businesses are recycling...food...plastic...grease? We can highlight good examples or case studies of good corporate recyclers. We will need any recommended questions drafted by the day after the March meeting.

The DEP grant money is based on metal, plastic, and paper.

Mike suggested we invite someone from the Plymouth Meeting Mall to have a separate meeting to talk about what they are doing and planning to do.

Knowing the parameters for what can be recycled and what must be cleaned and to what extent would be good information to share with both residential and commercial organizations.

Water management is a new focus in 2012. Every year we have to fill out a national pollutant discharge permit. Chris shared the 2011 permit. We have to create a storm outfall map...do damming, during dry weather, when there has not been any rain, there should be no water running through the pipe...if you have any hints of feces or californa you have to sample it again.

A big part of the process is educating people where the inlet goes to. In the newsletter we have education to help residents understand what not to put down storm drains. We included a piece in tax bills and that satisfies one of our state requirements to educate residents.

Possibly go to the middle school and conduct a poster contest about protecting storm water quality.

There is a place on the web site where you can sign up for email communications.

The next step with the poster contest is to contact a teacher to volunteer to help. Also see if we could have someone like Whole Foods see if they would be willing to sponsor a gift certificate for the poster contest winner.

We might also partner with Whitmarsh EAB to do joint education on storm water issues.

It is required to maintain riparian barrier along the border of streams for chemicals and herbicides.



Chris has an idea for an Adopt An Inlet program that they can fill out online and agree to and send it back in...we could get them some sort of can that they could use and some kind of recognition at a public meeting.

He suggested we investigate to see how other municipalities have approached the problem. Use word of mouth to spread announcement of program.

There is some remaining confusion about the complete streets program. In the township line road repaving, could the street possibly be restriped in order to accommodate bicycle traffic? Not all residential streets are striped. It was suggested that EAB have an opportunity to review the streets that are due to be repaved to propose spots that could be striped differently to support bicycle traffic.

Dean mentioned that all new construction will require sidewalk construction.

Jack Hoffman could tell us how many residents and companies have alternative energy permits approved.

Rick will be approaching PECO again to discuss extending gas lines closer to possibly hook up the township building. There was discussion about what to do about replacement of the electric boiler. Rick offered to invite Susan Ryan from PECO back. We would like to see the map of who has access to natural gas.

Rick indicated that we selected Land Concepts to do the planning for Harriet Weatherall and Rick nominated Mike for the Committee.

Mike indicated that because he is attending the monthly meetings...we spend a lot of money on vehicles...wondering whether we are considering hybrids. We can get a list of the fleet and their depreciation schedule with current mileage. Dean said that was reasonable and he would bring it up.

We proposed discussing with Bob next month or see if we can use discretionary funds for recreation for bike paths. If we have \$50K, we could give some money to Bob for consulting on bike path planning. Mike will bringing a map for next month to discuss.