

Plymouth Environmental Advisory Board

October 15, 2020

Start time 7pm via Zoom

Attendance: Bill, Mike V, Debbie, Andrew, Carolyn, Karen B

Guest Speaker: Colleen Falicki

Absent: Mike C, Agam, & Rick

1.) Pledge of Allegiance

2.) Sept Minutes – Motion to accept: Carolyn; 2nd: Andrew

3) **Guest Speaker: Colleen Falicki from Back to Earth Compost Crew.** She started her business 3 yrs ago. It started as curbside compost business. Residents can compost if they don't have the space or know-how; a service that takes food scraps to compost. She is working with businesses now to compost their scraps. She works with Ambler EAC & Weavers Way – doing education to keep food waste out of landfill. Her main goal is to educate how to bring food waste back to the soil. As part of her business plan, they give free compost back to subscribers. They have a collection site; Ambler Farmers Market is one of them for \$5 drop off fee. In the winter, the collection site is Weavers Way in Ambler 2x/mo. There is a secondary collection site in Phoenixville. Her Crew does take plants that come out of your garden; however, you shouldn't include plants with diseases into your compost. Colleen does most of her new business by word of mouth. Many people find her from searching for composting service. She offers 1-month free trial the pick up 2x per month. The hardest thing is to get people to change their routine. With Colleen's new software, a customer will be able to view analytics to see how much a customer is diverting from trash/landfills. There were ideas offered that if Plymouth Township could partner with Colleen, the Township building &/or Community Center would be good locations for collection sites. She uses 18gal totes that gets loaded into their trucks. She would need 3 stalls: 8ft x 4-5ft deep. It would need to be a closed-off system (not open). Someone suggested there is PECO space at E Valley Park near the power lines (gravel parking lot area). Another idea is to have a Township-sponsored Community Garden next to composting, perhaps at HW Park.

4) **Proposal for EAB Action: Ordinance for Nuisance of Second-hand smoke** – This proposal was presented to Council for review at the November 2nd Workshop.

5) **Municipal Building Redesign/Renovation** –the HVAC system to include more research & consideration for heat pump. The EAB is making the case to show a system to get off of natural gas and that is cost efficient. Projections show it will work out due to Operational costs for heat pump & life span expected to last 30yrs (vs natural gas to last 20 yrs). Was good to look deeper into this analysis. The EAB team also looked at Cost of Carbon: Financial & societal cost – both added to the model to show our "litter" to the atmosphere. If we'd build a more efficient building, the size of the system could be smaller. The end operating cost would be less. The heat pump could be run from solar panels. The architects will be back to join the budget meeting on Mon, Oct 26 at 6pm.

6) **PECO Green Region grant** (\$10k matching) – Application due 10/31. Start the feasibility of the trail plan that is part of the Comprehensive Plan. We will have to lobby to make a priority for next year. Due to the revenue shortfall this year, the township can't take on another project this year.

7) **Ready for 100 Plymouth** –

A) Villanova project: Spring 2020 semester students' project on hold for now as they focus on finishing their semester early.

B) Andy, Bill, Matt & Elizabeth from the Villanova student project & Kathy Bandish from Council participating in Clean Energy Planning program that started in July. The group has 3 wks left then a 6wk break over the holidays. Part 1 draft proposal of clean energy plan to be presented to stakeholders.

Next Meeting: Tues, Nov 17th at 7pm - via Zoom

Meeting ended 8:15 pm. Motion to close: Debbie; 2nd by Mike V.