

**Plymouth Environmental Advisory Board**

**October 19, 2021**

**Start time 7:00 pm Greater Plymouth Community Center**

Attendance: Bill, Debbie, Andrew, Mike C, Eunice, and Ben

Members Absent: Carolyn

Staff Absent: Rick Carbo (Buildings & Grounds Director) and Karen Bramblett (Township Council)

Guests in Attendance: Emily McClain (from business: Earthware Sustainable Goods)

**1.) Pledge of Allegiance**

**2.) Welcome and Introduction of new EAB member: Ben Deatrich**

**3.) June and July Minutes** – Andrew motioned to approve; Mike seconded the motion.

**4.) Guest: Emily McClain** from Earthware Sustainable Goods, an online business The mission of the business is to help reduce waste and directly contribute to the wellbeing of the planet. The products offered are alternatives to reduce single-use plastic around the home such as beeswax wraps instead of plastic wrap, bamboo toothbrushes over traditional. The EAB will post a “business spotlight” about her business on EAB’s Facebook page.

**5.) Trees** – The Conshohocken-based Colonial Canopy planted two trees this past Sat, 10/16 at Harriet Wetherill Park. It was decided that the EAB will not plant additional trees this fall since this other group planted trees at the park.

**6.) Ready for 100 Plymouth – Clean Energy Transition Planning program** – This initiative is on hold. The hope was to have Council try to take three actions for the year, but no commitment given. The EAB could start with Community Outreach.

**7.) Fall Newsletter** – already posted on the Township website. The EAB added a solar map and an energy transition plan brief on page 2 of the newsletter.

**8.) RGGI Actions (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative)** – PA has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest emissions of GHG in the USA. There is a virtual meeting on Wed, Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, Thur 10/Oct 21 at 7pm, and Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-8:30pm open to all. There will be guest panelist from allied organizations, hosted by The Climate Reality Project: Philadelphia and Southeastern PA Chapter.

**9.) Trails** – There is a feasibility study being done to add a bridge over Germantown Pike at Chemical Road for a bike/walking trail. Also PECO might no longer be approving trails under power lines.

**Plymouth Environmental Advisory Board**

**November 16, 2021**

**Start time 7:00 pm Greater Plymouth Community Center**

Attendance: Bill, Debbie, Mike C, and Ben

Staff in Attendance: Rick Carbo (Buildings & Grounds Director)

Members Absent: Andrew, Carolyn and Eunice

Staff Absent: Karen Bramblett (Township Council)

**1.) Pledge of Allegiance**

2.) **October Minutes** – a few edits were suggested. Minutes to be re-circulated and approved at December meeting.

3.) **Ready for 100 Plymouth – Clean Energy Transition Planning program** – This initiative is being reviewed by Council and Township Manager, but basically on hold. The hope was to have Council try to take three actions for the year, but no commitment given.

4.) **Trails** – The MontCo 2040 Grant application is due March 1, 2022. The proposal would be to connect the Community Center to the mall (Fountain Drive); perhaps a simple bike lane painted on road. Any project that would be applied for such grant needs to be “shovel-ready.”

5.) **Covanta** – The monies from the fine Covanta incurred was allocated to Alan Wood Park near Tee’s Golf Center in Conshohocken, on State Road. The township had to apply to obtain the fine money. New playground equipment to be installed at the park in the amount of \$47-48k in spring 2022.

6.) **Facebook/Website** - The PA Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) has released a simple guide to help residents and businesses understand recycling in PA called “Guidelines for Recycling in Your Community.” The booklet helps Pennsylvanians to recycle correctly by finding recycling programs in their local area, learning their local rules and following them to maximize the social, environmental, and economic benefits of recycling. The booklet was sent to Chris Loschiavo to compare to Township’s procedures. The link to the booklet was posted on EAB’s Facebook page.

7.) **Single-use Plastic Ban Ordinance** – The EAB had some discussion around this topic, what other local municipalities may be doing, what challenges could be anticipated. Typically, big-box retailers may already be offering plastic alternatives at other locations across the USA; it’s the smaller businesses that may be challenged with the upcharge to make the change. Single-use plastic bags are the worst option environmentally but having retailers, restaurants, etc. charging a fee to offset the upcharge to for the distribution of a reusable or other alternative bag – will it be enough to cause a shift in behavior? Other nearby Municipalities are considering same type ordinance.