

PRESENT

Casey LaLonde *Township Manager*
Ashley Gagne *Township Supervisor*

Henry Alexander *Vice Chair*
Natalie Caruso *Member*
Susan Charkes *Member*
Cynthia Sheikh *Member*
Tinamarie Smith *Member*
Dorothy Verdon *Secretary*
Melanie Vile *Chair*

The monthly meeting of the West Goshen Township (WGT) Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) convened virtually via GoToMeeting was called to order by Vice Chair Henry Alexander (HA) at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

HA opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

HA invited members to re-introduce themselves and convey their background and/or interest on the topic of sustainability for the benefit of Melanie Vile (MV), who was unable to attend the previous meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

HA called a vote to approve the September 22, 2020 meeting minutes as amended on October 5, 2020. All approved.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

After a brief discussion, MV was nominated as committee chairperson. She accepted, a vote was taken, and all were in favor.

4. INITIATIVES, Part 1

HA summarized the seven initiatives contained in Tinamarie Smith's (TS) draft dated September 29, 2020. [See attached](#). Casey LaLonde (CL) brought the SAC up to date regarding WGT's vehicle inventory. HA volunteered to champion the corresponding initiative specific to a phased transition of township gas and diesel-fueled vehicles to electric and other clean energy sources.

5. MISSION STATEMENT

Discussion of three draft mission statements. [See attached](#). The focus was inclusion of social and economic impacts in the statement as two of the three pillars of sustainability. Ashley Gagne (AG) provided background on a Board of Supervisors discussion before the SAC was formed. A motion was made to adopt AG's version. The motion carried with six "ayes" and one "nay."

For the record, the adopted mission statement is as follows:

The West Goshen ([Township](#)) Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) serves to develop environmental, economic, and social sustainability initiatives in West Goshen Township. Serving in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors, its goals are to educate, advocate, and develop best management practices through education, community outreach, and strategic planning.

6. INITIATIVES, Part 2

- A. Two new initiatives specific to reduction of plastic bottle and plastic bag and straw use were suggested.
- B. AG spoke about asking the Township to set a date for a commitment to a clean energy policy.
- C. TS reported on a conversation with Christi Supple (Chair of East Goshen Sustainability Committee) and David Shuey (East Goshen BOS committee liaison). D. Shuey in favor of sharing of information, initiatives, and initiating cooperative programs. TS provided background on initial call. MV and HA meet weekly with C. Supple and will invite her to attend a WGT-SAC meeting.
- D. TS reported on conversations with Borough of West Chester Sustainability Director Will Williams, Mayor Dianne Herrin, and Jim Wylie, vice chair of the borough's SAC, regarding their support of WGT's SAC. TS suggested that W. Williams be invited to attend one of our meetings. "Bikeability" is of particular interest to him. Committee considered adding this as an initiative but deferred to the comprehensive plan, where it is addressed.
- E. **Action Item:** TS to update initiatives list per the discussion and redistribute after the meeting.

7. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Casey LaLonde reminded the committee about the Sunshine Law and emphasized that no more than three people may deliberate an issue outside of a meeting. It is permissible to share information via email.

8. COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION

- A. In an email dated September 28 to TS, East Goshen Township Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Lang suggested that the SAC consider going through the PA Sustainable Communities process managed by the PA Municipal League. Information about the program is [here](#). Committee briefly discussed merits of this certification, as well as obtaining a [Tree City USA](#) accreditation and all were in favor.

9. 2020-2021 BUDGET

- A. The committee budget allocation was discussed. CL remarked that the Township is currently working on the budget and suggested we consider \$5,000. After brief discussion and general agreement that the amount seemed reasonable, Dorothy Verdon (DV) made a motion, seconded by HA, that the SAC request a budget allotment of \$5,000 for 2020-2021. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. There was no public comment.

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN

- A. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

12. NEXT MEETING

- A. Future meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. All meetings will be virtual until further notice.