

PRESENT

Casey LaLonde	<i>Township Manager</i>	Henry Alexander	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Derek Davis	<i>Asst. Township Mgr.</i>	Natalie Caruso	<i>Member</i>
Ashley Gagne	<i>Township Supervisor</i>	Susan Charkes	<i>Member</i>
John Hellmann	<i>Township Supervisor</i>	Cynthia Sheikh	<i>Member</i>
		Tinamarie Smith	<i>Member</i>
		Dorothy Verdon	<i>Secretary</i>
		Melanie Vile	<i>Chair</i>

The monthly meeting of the West Goshen Township (WGT) Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) convened virtually via GoToMeeting was called to order by Chair Melanie Vile (MV) at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 24, 2020 meeting minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried.

2. UPDATE ON ITEMS FROM NOVEMBER 24 MEETING

- A. **Solar ordinance ad hoc group.** Regarding establishment of an ad hoc group to review the solar ordinance (Section 84-57.17) with the intent of removing unnecessary restrictions on the installation of solar arrays, Derek Davis is attempting to schedule the group's first meeting during the week of January 11.
- B. **Biking.** Tinamarie Smith (TS) reached out to Borough of West Chester Sustainability Director Will Williams to invite him to a meeting to talk about improving biking along the Paoli Pike/Gay Street corridor but was not able to obtain a commitment. Henry Alexander (HA) to follow up.
- C. **Tree City certification.** Susan Charkes (SC) volunteered to lead the effort. It was revealed that In February 2018 after a presentation by Ashley Gagne (AG), SC and Eunice Alexander, the board of supervisors (BOS) resolved to apply for entry and participate in the Tree City USA program with the caveat that the Township Park & Recreation Board and the Historical Commission participate in the program as well.

A discussion ensued, focusing on specific [eligibility requirements](#) set forth in the Arbor Day Foundation's four [standards](#) and how the township would meet them. There was optimism amongst the group that all were achievable. John Hellmann (JH) asked what the advantage to the township was by being a Tree City and SC responded that it is a badge of honor and a way to incentivize people to care about trees.

The Tree City topic as it relates to the township's participation will be added as an agenda item for the January 6, 2021 BOS workshop.

3. CONSIDERATION OF TRANSITION OF WGT MOTOR VEHICLES TO EVS

- A. HA volunteered to research maintenance costs versus fuel savings and reported findings. The cost of a standard gasoline-fueled police vehicle is approximately \$34,000, whereas a hybrid is approximately \$38,000. HA forwarded this information to Lt. Michael Carroll, incoming chief of police as of January 4, 2021.
- B. During the November 24 SAC meeting, Lt. Carroll had volunteered to look into the option of purchasing one for 2021. At that time HA volunteered to research cost of maintenance data against documented fuel savings but has not received the related information from the township. Casey LaLonde (CL) said that the list is being finalized and should be available shortly.

4. SALDO ORDINANCES UPDATE

- A. AG reached out to Kristin Camp, who represents Buckley Brion McGuire & Morris, the township solicitor. Kristin had not yet seen any municipality amend their ordinance for solar. Good place to start would be with the Chester County planning commission.
- B. AG looked at website and found a good resource, renewable [energy ordinance framework for solar](#) by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. It emphasizes best practices for solar zoning. AG will share link with group as a meeting follow-up. HA concurred with basic DVRPC approach that we need to look at, with the goal of making implementation easier for developers and solar companies.
- C. Our goal is to lift some of the zoning restrictions in the township code ([Section 84-57.17](#)). AG read from the document. Zoning Officer Bill Webb will attend our January meeting and will answer some of these questions. JH commented on incentivizing going solar that could be worked into the township code. Bryan Hutchinson (East Goshen Township SAC) spoke about what they have done.

5. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR TOWNSHIP COMMITMENT TO 100% GREEN RENEWABLE ENERGY

- A. Melanie Vile (MV) proposed doing more research between now and January meeting before presenting recommendations to the BOS for setting a date for the township government entity to become 100% renewable. HA commented on the various nearby municipalities like West Chester Borough and East Bradford that have already accepted the challenge.
- B. JH referred to the Cadmus report and commented that the BOS had already passed a resolution for all electric vehicles and renewable energy.
- C. AG stated that West Goshen Township can act as a role model and that such a resolution would hold the township accountable.
- D. Dorothy Verdon (DV) suggested SAC contribute an article to the township newsletter. MV volunteered to draft one.

6. PLASTIC BAG BAN

- A. Pennsylvania lawmakers used a budget-related bill to extend the current moratorium on such bans for at least a year. The new provision, inserted into the fiscal code (HB1083), prohibits municipalities from enacting any fees or restrictions on all single-use plastics such as bags, utensils or Styrofoam containers. The ban effectively delays implementation of any current plastic bag bans such as those passed in Philadelphia, West Chester, and Narberth, at least until July 1, 2021, or six months after Gov. Tom Wolf lifts the COVID-19 state of emergency.

6. PLASTIC BAG BAN (Cont'd.)

B. Discussion ensued about alternatives such as promoting retailers who abandon plastic bags in social media and elsewhere and altering user behavior. No conclusions or action plans were reached.

7. WEST CHESTER CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

A. Kick-off event on January 19, 2021.

B. MV provided background information and shared her screen.

C. A suggestion was made to post it on the township calendar and in social media.

7. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Resident Margie Swart thanked the committee for their work.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. It was seconded and the motion carried.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. All meetings will be virtual until further notice.

Respectfully resubmitted on January 5, 2021 by Dorothy J. Verdon, Secretary, SAC