

**Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**11 December 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m.

**Present:** Mary Westervelt, Erin McPherson, Doug Anestad, Signe Hansen, Rutger Boerema, Kevin O’Nell via phone call. Tom Szwech arrived 8:30.

**Absent:** Priyanka Kapadia

**October minutes approved.**

**1) Discussion of Stormwater Field trip (Mary reporting)**

The field trip, which took place Oct. 20, was a great success. Turnout at Cedar Hollow Preserve filled both parking lots. Participants were eager to hear about storm runoff and healthy streams, and ideal plants to be putting in their yards that would help native species. The field trip introduced the importance of managing rain water to the community. EAC members agreed that it would be good to make this an annually recurring event, and to add follow-up events regarding rain gardens. Mary will send report/photos to newsletter.

**2) MS4 Workshop report (Rutger reporting) and Stormwater in Tredyffrin Twp.**

Rutger had attended the PA Dept. of Envir Protection-sponsored workshop and reiterated that the Township is required to provide stormwater education and outreach to the township residents under PA law. She pressed Erin for what the state response had been to TE's MS4 plan. Erin said that the township had not gotten a state response. Erin said that the EAC had sponsored lecture series on the subject in the past to the community but attendance had been low. Field trip (above) was successful.

There was a discussion on how different townships dealt with community outreach and how it was funded.

- Haverford's EAC has a grant which pays for 10 rain gardens per year on private residence land to serve as community education.
- Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) sponsors Streamsmart House Calls, where watershed experts visit properties in the Darby Creek watershed to evaluate for stormwater problems and recommend solutions. They donate a rain barrel to property owners having a House Call. ( Mary earlier gave a rain garden workshop talk at the YMCA (October 22) which was useful but was not well-attended, where these were discussed.)

- Also presented at the October YMCA event: The YMCA worked with Land Studies ([www.landstudies.com](http://www.landstudies.com), Lititz, PA) for funding and guidance for its own major stormwater project.
- Erin: Valley Creek Restoration Partnership (Chuck Marshall, contact) has done rain gardens. They got a grant to do basin retrofits with Twp. Put in underground infiltration systems. **Mary to learn more before January meeting.**

Doug suggested that he and everyone needs to have greater information on the specifics of MS4 and how it could be put into place (further discussion with Erin).

Kevin suggested that Tredyffrin needs a real plan and that the Board of Supervisors is willing to seriously consider any stormwater plans on account of the huge amount of flooding in Tredyffrin during 2018. Phone call complaints about water management now make up a huge percentage of calls to Supervisors in Tredyffrin.

[Reference MS4 guide:

<http://files.dep.state.pa.us/EnvironmentalEd/Environmental%20Education/EnvEdPortalFiles/MS4%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>]

### **3) Energy Consortium Reports (Rutger reporting)**

Kevin, Rutger and Erin met 11/27 with Twp representative Amanda Loeft (Mary absent due to illness). For the township to reduce energy usage it must lead by example. PECO has incentives available (residential and commercial). PECO will do energy profiles for buildings and has already done some on various township buildings. Erin gave the report to Darin Fitzgerald, head of Public Works. (Township building uses an unusual amount of energy at midnight, but this was attributed to the 24-hour activity of the police department. Erin commented on the various states of renovation of the municipal and other buildings in the past and problems therewith.)

It was reiterated that the township should absolutely be switching over to LED lighting for easy savings and reduced consumption.

It was noted that the district schools should be ordering a PECO evaluation > Michelle Burger, Facilities Chair for schools, was named as the probable point person.

### **4) No discussion of possible Tesla Community Presentation as Priyanka was absent.**

### **5) Township Clean Energy Goals (Rutger reporting)**

The PA Utility Commission suggests that by 2021 18% of our energy should come from

renewables and by 2021, PA should be generating 0.5% of renewable energy (largely through solar energy). Rutger sought advice on the proper way to proceed. Rutger will ask for preliminary quotes for solar panels, including in how many years they would pay for themselves, in order to present a proposal with information to the Board of Supervisors. Twp Manager Bill Martin would need to be involved.

## **6) Recycling (Tom reporting)**

Tom continued discussions with TE public schools about improving real recycling at the schools (as opposed to for-show bins). He has been in monthly meetings with Middle School personnel. Tom's next focus will be township recycling at shopping centers such as Gateway. There needs to be a push to reduce the use of plastic bags for shopping, in addition to making sure that recycling bin contents are actually recycled and not just for show.

It was noted that Tredyffrin has been in discussion about modernizing the township recycling ordinance (among others), and that the EAC needs an update on the status of that initiative.

## **New Business**

**Meeting schedule for 2019: last Tuesdays of month. No meetings April, June, August, December.**

- **January 29 (fifth Tuesday):**                   **Focus: Stormwater, renewable energy**
- **February 26: Focus: Recycling**
- **March 26**
- **May 28**
- **July 23**
- **September 24**
- **October 22 (fourth Tuesday; month has five)**
- **November 26**

## **Habitat Network**

Habitat Network: [content.yardmap.org](http://content.yardmap.org) (Signe reporting)

Signe reported that the Cornell Lab of Ornithology had partnered with the Habitat Network to provide a platform which allows private citizens the ability to map their yards to create healthier yards for wildlife. Using Google Earth and the yardmap.org tools, a homeowner is led through what amounts to a game to improve their yard, with useful tutorials on plants, stormwater and other ecologically beneficial topics. This platform addresses the great puzzle of how to teach private citizens and possibly how to move them to address their property stormwater issues while supporting pollinators and reducing pesticide/fertilizer use in the township. It's an ideal educational tool; we should promote this.

**Goals for 2019 Quick overview:**

- Repeat the Cedar Hollow healthy stream field trip for community
- Get quote and write up a proposal for the Board of Supervisors for solar panels on township buildings and Tredyffrin Public Library.
- Regular schedule of maintenance for plantings in Westover, Crabby Creek, and Wilson Farm Parks. (Westover Bird Sanctuary - trees and other plants that were installed in 2017 need attention. Attempts to get volunteers in 2018 were fruitless. Schedule maintenance, removal of invasives. Coordinate w Birdtown group.)
- Chester County 10-year plan. It was generally agreed that it would be beneficial if an EAC member were to attend the meetings. It was unknown if any "citizen slots" were still available.
- EAC presence with Planning and Zoning desired.
- Increase publication to Tredyffrin through Next Door feed, township and county newsletters.

Members asked to bring specific goals to January 29, 2019 meeting.

Members should read MS4 document highlighted in minutes before January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.