

**Tredyffrin Township EAC
Meeting Minutes
26 February 2019**

Present: Rutger Boerema, Signe Hansen, Priyanka Kapadia, Tom Szwech, Erin McPherson, Steve Burgo, Mary Westervelt

Guest: Amber Levy

Absent: Kevin O'Neil, Doug Anestad

December minutes approved

Announcements

- Many meetings; see below. Erin reports that we are **no longer** permitted to use the restitution fund for registration fees.
- Candidate for open EAC position: Amber Levy. Runs Giving Garden at New Eagle Elementary. Elementary science teacher. Sees her strength as outreach organizer.
- Articles in December for Winter Tredyffrin Newsletter:
 - "Where Does All That Stormwater Go? *Participants in an October, 2018 Field Trip Found out*" (Mary) Three people have responded that they would like to be kept informed of future rain-garden activities, including field trip(s).
 - "Bring Solar to Tredyffrin" (Rutger)

Discussion topics

- **Electric vehicle charging stations in Tredyffrin:** PA has \$180m of VW fine money, with some available for Level 2 charging stations for electric vehicles in public areas. Must install 2 for a \$10k grant. Must submit an estimate to DEP to get a voucher good for 180 days. Application time extended to 31 March, 2019. We need an estimate. Rutger has spoken to Practical Energy Solutions, West Chester to get an estimate. Steve Burgo suggests talk to Peco for more information.

Steps for presenting to Board of Supervisors:

- Initial estimate
- Several bids needed once voucher is in hand.

Rutger wants to focus on getting these installed in public places such as Wilson Farm park, the Township building and Tredyffrin Library. .

Getting Information about the available dollars to private entities would be a good idea.

- **Recycling**
 - **Jennifer Cox** says Hillside will consider compostable trays. Mary: find out about under what conditions they are compostable. Steve Burgo reports that TEMS is using 100% compostable trays made of sugar cane.
 - Tom reports that the new recycling ordinance was not passed in February. He is in contact with Bill Martin to try to get involvement of EAC in the discussion.
 - Source(s) within the schools report that the schools are cracking down on recycling.

- **Stormwater**

Report:

- Mary met with Chuck Marshall of Trout Unlimited about current/previous work in Tredyffrin along Valley Creek – possible field trips? Chuck noted locations of various

BMPs installed in Tredyffrin, on the right-of-way near homes, and in back yards. Liz Feinberg gave a tour in maybe 2005. Mary has contacted Liz to see if she'd be interested in collaborating on a repeat.

- Chester County prepared a *Valley Creek Watershed Stormwater Management Plan* in 2010/2011. Among members of Advisory Committee: Steve Burgo, Twp Engineer. Page 67: "Conclusions drawn from the modeling work demonstrate that there is insufficient gain from focusing solely on runoff from new development and that the priorities must be to reduce peak rates, volume and pollutant loads from existing sources of runoff, protect floodplain flood-conveyance capacity; protect and/or expand the vegetated riparian corridor; and implement stormwater management standards for redevelopment and new development." Also: "The watershed has benefited from an exceptional grass-roots partnership, the Valley Creek Restoration Partnership, with numerous on-the-ground improvements projects including basin retrofits, stream channel restoration, residential rain gardens, and education events. However insufficient funding and manpower constrain their current and future efforts."

- Other workshops/field trips to plan? Rain Gardens, another visit to the creeks? **This will be discussed in detail at the March meeting.** Mary posted information about a Rain Garden Workshop at Jenkins February 9.

- **NOTE: Rain Garden Workshop March 9, Haverford CREC.** From DCVA website:

This Rain Garden Workshop will teach you how to build and maintain a Rain Garden yourself and how to help build rain gardens in your community. You can sign up for later opportunities to gain hands on experience by helping build our late spring rain gardens or apprenticing by assessing potential locations and designing rain gardens. Presented by Darby Creek Valley Association, Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative and Hav-a-Rain Garden who have designed and built more than 60 rain gardens in the region at parks, libraries and private properties. Free

- Steve Burgo reports that there are a number of green roofs in the twp. Penn Medicine, Green Roof. IMC developer. Energy audit done, found that payback would be downsizing HVAC, structural savings to building. Green Roof good investment. Whole Foods, hair salon – Green Roofs. Also Chesterbrook Rite Aid, Bank, Tredyffrin Library. EAC should do research and write an article for the next twp news (due March 15).

Steve's assessment is that stormwater control on Trout Creek suffers from antiquated thinking, bad design. Valley Creek, better.

Retrofitted basin. Need article about Penn Medicine

- **Renewable Energy**

- BoS has approved phase two for the DVRPC lighting program.
- EAC would like to be included on the committee for developing the Comprehensive Plan. Murph Wysocki reports that a committee has not been established yet.
- Board of Supervisors, at their Feb. 19 meeting, voted to approve a new electricity provider. **Signe asked whether a renewable energy provider was considered. Signe will find out how much the township will pay per kWh and how long the current contract is valid.** The EAC would like to provide input when a new provider is considered.

Meetings/workshops: Interested in attending?

- **EAC North Chester County meeting Feb. 19, 6-8:30 (we missed this)**
 - Tuesday, 19 February, 6-8:30

- West Vincent Elementary School, 2750 Conestoga Rd, Chester Springs (near intersection of 100 and 401).
 - Contact: Victoria Laubach victoria@greenvalleys.org
 - A folder has been set up on Google Docs with minutes from meeting and a place to add our information. Mary will share link.
- **PA Statewide Watershed Conference (POWR and PEC)** <http://pecpa.org/connections2019>
 - State College, PA
 - Sun, Feb 24 – Mon Feb 25
 - Mary attended, registration paid for by Darby Creek Valley Association
 - **2019 Schuylkill Watershed Congress** <https://sites.google.com/view/watershedcongress/>
 - 9 March, 2019
 - Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown
 - Katherine and Mary attended last year, found it useful. Registration = \$50 (a late fee is added for registration near the date).
 - **Green Building United meeting: May 3rd.** Priyanka will attend.
 - **Environmental Advisory Council Network Conference:** Sponsor=Pennsylvania Environmental Council/Land Trust Association
 - <https://eacnetwork.org/about-eac-network/>
 - Saturday, 18 May 7:30 (Breakfast) – 3:00
 - Skytop Lodge (Poconos)
 - Registration \$35 before April 16, \$45 after

Signe: Need to plan to have a table at the UMLY Kid's Day – **Mary to find out date (April or May).** Need to provide maps of parks, especially Westover Bird Sanctuary.

Tory – Planning Commission - **Tom will contact her to remind her about meetings.**

Kevin – need a rep who can be here. **Mary to contact him and suggest that someone from BoS be at every EAC meeting.**

Meeting closed at 9:20

Next EAC Meeting: 26 March

Attachments

Minutes: Clean Energy Subcommittee mtg minutes, 2019 Feb 07

Minutes: PECO energy-saving meeting, 2018 Nov 27

Renewable Energy/Energy Savings Meeting

Date: November 27, 2018

Attended: Erin McPherson (Tredyffrin Township), Amanda Lafty (Tredyffrin Township), Kevin O’Nell (Township Supervisor), Mike Newman (PECO), Derek Camp (PECO), Rutger Boerema (Environmental Advisory Council)

Absent: Mary Westervelt (EAC) and Tom Szwech (EAC)

Goal: Discuss PECO rebate programs, share facility assessment reports and discuss potential energy savings

Mike explained PECO rebate programs. Either:

1. Prescriptive rebate programs, saving per fixture (e.g. saving per light);
2. Custom rebate programs, used for bigger manufacturing companies for example;
3. Smart Watt program for small businesses;
4. Multifamily building program

Tredyffrin Township will likely qualify for the prescriptive program. Mike handed out a folder with an overview of possible rebates. There is no minimum requirement to join the program.

Process: complete pre application with contact info, account numbers, a lighting worksheet. Mike offered to help complete the pre application as the lighting worksheet is not user friendly. After the pre application is approved, PECO will make a reservation for the funds.

Mike shares three building/facility assessment reports for buildings either owned or leased by Tredyffrin Township:

1. Township Building - 1100 Duportail Road (annual electric usage: 518,913 kWh);
2. Paoli Library – 18 Darby Road (annual electric usage: 43,586 kWh);
3. Tredyffrin Library – 582 Upper Gulph Road (annual electric usage: 496,414 kWh)

These reports show a year's worth of electric usage, an operating schedule for all days of the week, 24 hours and the amount of electricity being used during every day of the week, and advice to reduce energy usage. The 1st report also shows a comparison between the heating degree days/cooling degree days throughout the year, 24 hours a day.

The Tredyffrin Township building was built in 1995 and needs renovation. Space heating/cooling isn't always working well (too little cooling in certain areas, too much cooling in other areas). Unclear how the operating systems works. Mike advises to have mechanical contractors check this to be able to generate savings and improve control over temperatures in offices.

Kevin asks whether it is possible to compare the heating/cooling degree days versus gas usage throughout the year. Mike will follow up on this.

Comments/notes:

- The Tredyffrin Township building uses pretty constant electricity throughout a 24 hour period. As expected it is more intense between 8 am and 6 pm but it's never low. This might be caused by the 24 hour occupation of police. However, controlling this better would result in energy savings.
- The air conditioning system in the Tredyffrin Library building should be replaced. Amanda mentioned that the township had applied for a grant to fund this but it wasn't approved. Amanda will provide Mike with the data relating to the AC system and Mike will look into how high the rebates will be under a PECO program.
- Question: is exterior lighting outside the township building and library buildings part of the DVRPC program? Amanda to follow up on this. Verify whether it is worth applying for this in the PECO rebate program.
- Question: are traffic lights part of the DVRPC lighting program? Amanda to follow up on this. The bulbs in the traffic lights were replaced 15 years ago so that's worth replacing.
- Paoli Library can probably qualify for savings via the Smart Watt program. Mike will provide Amanda with contact information. Changing the lights to LED will save energy and money.
- In general for all buildings install light sensor controls
- Compare the operating schedules of all three buildings with weekly schedules of the buildings. For example Tredyffrin Library is closed on Wednesday, however on Wednesday lights are on between 7 am till 5 pm. Why is there a high electricity demand at Paoli library at 6 am till 8 am?

Minutes: 2-7-19 Tredyffrin EAC Clean-Energy Subcommittee Meeting
In attendance: Rutger Boerema, Jennifer Cox

Review of accomplishments/activities of Clean Energy Subcommittee in 2018

- 4. Renewable energy resolution for Tredyffrin Township-** draft
- 5. Community Education: Clean Energy Series:** Benefits of and options for renewable energy in Tredyffrin Township (all in Tredyffrin Library, except #4).
 - 1) Renewable Energy in Tredyffrin Township – Citizens' Perspective Series (3/12/18)
 - 2) Geothermal Energy in Tredyffrin Township (7/28/18)
 - 3) Residential Solar and Solarize (joint purchase of solar) in Tredyffrin Township (9/30/18)
 - 4) Drive Electric Week at Tredyffrin Township “Party in the Park” -showcasing electric cars owned and presented by township residents (cancelled due to inclement weather)
- **DVRPC Regional Streetlight Procurement Program** (to reduce energy use/costs and greenhouse gas emissions). Results of phase 1 were presented during the BoS meeting 01/22/2019).
- **Township Energy Conservation** (reduce energy use via efficiency measures/reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions).
 - Meeting November 27, 2018 with PECO to discuss PECO rebate programs, discuss facilitate assessment program & discuss potential energy saving.

Ongoing activities:

- **Township Energy Conservation** (reduce energy use via efficiency measures/reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions)
Action item:
 - Check in with township on progress toward completion.
- **DVRPC Regional Streetlight Procurement Program**
Action item:
 - Discuss in EAC on how to ensure Tredyffrin moves to phase 2 & 3.
- **New Comprehensive Plan:** Include EAC members in process.
 Goal: inclusion of renewable energy in buildings (housing) and transportation. Environmental considerations in land use. Start Comprehensive plan October 2019 over a period of 18 months. In the BOS meeting of 09.20.2018 it was decided that a subcommittee would be formed in the spring/summer of 2019.
- **Renewable energy estimate for Township buildings:** Current Township electricity provider is Patriot Energy, contract through 2019 (re; correspondence with director of Public Works: 1/31/18). Request for annual electricity usage from Township (6/6/18) correspondence w/public works coordinator inconclusive/need more specific information.
Action Items:
 - Follow-up: request more specific information on Township electricity usage.
 - Get renewable energy estimates from providers.
- **Township application for Level 2 EV Rebate Program:** This will be an agenda item for BoS on February 19, 2019.
- **Work with YMCA to** showcasing electric cars owned and presented by township residents. Contact with YMCA is ongoing. YMCA hasn't finalized their plans for the May event.
Action Item:
 - Follow up with YMCA (Rutger)

Goals for next 6 months:

- ❖ Comprehensive Plan: EAC to join the comprehensive planning committee, with EAC members rotating.
- ❖ How to make Tredyffrin ready for Solar Energy? Explore how Tredyffrin can use Solsmart program to make the township ready for solar energy (Rutger)
- ❖ Renewable Energy Estimate for Township buildings (see above) ...Jenn (will follow up previous email)
- ❖ Township Ordinances Review (per renewable energy, mitigating climate change effects). The outcome of the analysis will be shared with BoS--Jenn

