

MALVERN BOROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
1 East First Avenue
Malvern, PA 19355

June 25, 2020
7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT:

Helise Bichefsky, DO
Brendan Phillips
Brian Walker
Zoe Warner, PhD

ABSENT:

John Butow
John Meisel

Staff, Members of Borough Council, & Professionals Present:

Christopher Bashore, Borough Manager

2. MINUTES

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Helise Bichefsky, DO, and carried by a vote of 4-0, to approve the minutes from the meeting held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 as presented.

3. Virginia Pohlman – Chair – East Whiteland Township Environmental Advisory Council

Virginia Pohlman, Chair of the East Whiteland Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), appeared before the Malvern Borough EAC in order to discuss her experience and provide insight. Ms. Pohlman stated that the East Whiteland Township EAC has been established for some time and recently focused a significant amount of energy on the proposed Bishop Tube project. Brian Walker described the project to the EAC. Ms. Pohlman described the activities that other EACs are involved in, noting participation with the Sierra Club, a summit on renewable energy presented by PA Sen. Andy Dinniman, and regional meetings among area EACs. Ms. Pohlman noted that the East Whiteland Township EAC became involved in recycling last year with the adoption of a new ordinance.

Brian Walker noted that there was an EAC handbook that he would circulate. Helise Bichefsky, DO asked about the functions of different EACs. Ms. Pohlman noted her experience with hazardous waste sites and recommended that the members of the Malvern Borough EAC attend the EAC conference. Helise Bichefsky, DO asked if there were a large number of community volunteers. Ms. Pohlman stated that there is not a large amount of community involvement and meeting attendance is light. Helise Bichefsky, DO asked if they ever did educational lectures. Ms. Pohlman stated that they did not as there has not been a significant amount of public support. The members of the EAC discussed the possibility of joint programs and Ms. Pohlman stated that she was interested in that possibility.

The members of the Malvern Borough EAC thanked Ms. Pohlman for her attendance.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. State environmental regulations – single-use plastic bags

Christopher Bashore provided an update on Pennsylvania’s preemption on the ability of municipalities to regulate single-use plastics. Mr. Bashore stated that Governor Wolf signed into law an emergency budget bill on May 29, 2020 that extended the preemption. Mr. Bashore stated that another bill is being considered before the PA Senate Local Government Committee that would extend the preemption even further. Mr. Bashore stated that he intends to recommend that Borough Council prepare a letter in opposition to curtailing municipal authority to regulate single-use plastics.

The members of the EAC thanked Mr. Bashore for his update.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Virtual Educational programs/materials

The EAC discussed potential virtual programs. Topics discussed included recycling and an environmental diet. Zoe Warner, PhD, recommended that the EAC work with the Parks & Recreation Committee on programs. Helise Bichefsky, DO noted that the Parks & Recreation Committee has funding for programs and a social media platform. Brian Walker recommended working with other EACs to coordinate activities. The EAC discussed recruiting volunteers from local organizations to assist.

The EAC discussed the environmental diet. A website for www.ecochallenge.org was provided by resident Mark King and circulated to the EAC. This activity would include topics such as water use reduction, clean air, and recycling. Zoe Warner, PhD, and Helise Bichefsky, DO volunteered to coordinate this activity. Brendan Phillips recommended coordinating this with the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Discussion was had in terms of educational materials for recycling. Mr. Bashore recommended that a question be posted on the Malvern Community Forum on Facebook to survey the community on questions. The question would be “what questions do you have about recycling?” Brian Walker volunteered to prepare a running list on Google Docs. This would then be compiled into an FAQ page for the Borough website.

The EAC discussed the article for the upcoming edition of the *Borough Broadcaster*. Zoe Warner, PhD, discussed potential topics, including stormwater toxicity and the environmental diet. The EAC determined that the article will be about the environmental diet. Zoe Warner, PhD will prepare the first draft of the article.

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b. Discussion of next meeting topics

The EAC discussed trash collection in the Borough. Brief discussion was had regarding the possibility of reducing the trash collection from two (2) times per week to one (1) time per week. This may be discussed further at a future meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Helise Bichefsky, DO asked if there were any comments from the public on items not on the agenda for the meeting.

No public comment was noted.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Brian Walker, and carried by a vote of 4-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Christopher Bashore
Borough Manager