

MALVERN BOROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Zoom Conference
Malvern, PA 19355

October 28, 2021
7:00 P.M.

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helise Bichefsky, D.O., Chair
Brian Walker, Vice-Chair
Zoë Warner, Ph.D., Secretary
Tiffany Brouillet
Brendan Phillips

ABSENT:

Daniel Kunze

1. CALL TO ORDER

Helise Bichefsky called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. MINUTES

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Brian Walker, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes from August 26, 2021.

New Business

1. Comprehensive Plan Task Force

Zoë Warner described the goals the task force put forth specifically related to natural resources and the environment (i.e., protecting Crum and Valley Creek headwaters, improving stormwater management, enhancing green infrastructure, focusing on green energy initiatives, and achieving carbon neutrality by 2040).

Members of the EAC discussed the committee's role in meeting specific goals set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. The plan will be the vision for Malvern for the next 10 years. EAC members agreed the committee can be instrumental in ensuring there is sustained progress in addressing and meeting the plan's goals. When the plan is adopted, the EAC will address specific objectives that are achievable in a 12- to 24-month timeframe. Over the life of the plan, the EAC will work through the goals, so they are met before a new Comprehensive Plan is adopted.

Old Business

1. Housekeeping

Helise initiated a discussion on the future direction of the EAC. Members discussed initiatives the Borough could institute fairly easily. Brendan suggested we focus on providing charging stations for electric vehicles in the short term. In the long term, we could focus on increasing the efficiency of the Borough's fleet (i.e., police and public works) by either purchasing/leasing electric or hybrid vehicles as replacement vehicles are needed.

Brian proposed that we make a presentation to Borough Council proposing specific initiatives that would advance sustainability in the Borough. The purpose of the proposal would be to have the Borough Council enact these initiatives in 2022.

Brian will gather input from the EAC members to develop a presentation for Borough Council. Helise will contact Tiffany Loomis, interim Borough Manager, to get the presentation on Borough Council's agenda for the November 16 meeting.

Some initial ideas that were discussed were having the Borough purchase two- or three-stream waste receptacles for Malvern's parks. The two-stream receptacle would include recyclables and waste. The three-stream would add compost. Tiffany Brouillet also suggested the Borough could fund a pilot program for curbside compost pick-up.

2. Community Composting

Tiffany researched how the Borough of Media established curbside composting in the borough. They began with a pilot program. Tiffany suggested Malvern Borough could follow this model beginning with 100 households. She reached out to Colleen Falicki from Back to Earth Compost Crew. Ms. Falicki said they collect one 5-gallon bucket from each household every other week. Then customers receive compost for their gardens at least once a year. The current price for curbside pick-up is \$18 per month, but Tiffany will try to negotiate a group rate. To initiate the program, the EAC would request the Borough pay for the pilot program for a year.

Helise and Brendan raised concerns about continued participation and retention. They discussed the possibility that residents might sign up for the program but their participation might be inconsistent or they may not actually end up participating. To address this, the EAC would have an education program ahead of time and follow up to see who is participating. Brian suggested Back to Earth might have data we could use to track participation and help target households that need further support to maintain participation.

3. Borough Broadcaster Article

The next article should promote the pilot program for curbside compost pick up.

4. Rain garden – Quann Park

Zoë proposed we plan a community event around the rain garden installation. She participated in a similar event at the Newtown Township building. It was organized by the Newtown Township's EAC and CRC Watersheds. The planting was done in part to fulfill the township's MS4 pollution reduction obligations. Zoë said it was a highly successful event that enable participants to take part in ecological restoration. During the event participants learned more about the value of a rain garden and how it will improve stormwater management at the township building. They also learned about appropriate plant materials and had an opportunity to engage with other members of the community.

Zoë suggested a planting event in Malvern could be an add-on to the stormwater reduction plan being developed by EB Walsh and Associates. Plants could be paid for through the EAC budget.

Brendan will contact Dan Daley, the Borough engineer, to determine how a community event could be incorporated into the current plan in development.

5. Committee Vacancy

Helise said her neighbor is interested in joining the EAC. Helise will help her with the official application process.

6. Committee reports

a. Borough council – nothing to report

b. Comprehensive Plan Task Force
items covered in meeting's earlier discussion

c. Planning Commission
MPC will be engaging in a more proactive planning process. Some issues to be addressed will be related to reducing the environmental impacts of the built environment. There may be an opportunity for collaboration between the EAC and MPC in addressing some of the environmental initiatives.

d. Parks and Rec – nothing to report

e. Master Watershed Program – nothing to report

Public Comment

John Buckley, 165 Church Street, said his yard floods when there is a big storm because the stormwater runoff does not make it to the storm drain; instead, it flows into his yard. He wanted to know which Borough committee can assist him in addressing this issue. Helise told him homeowner complaints have to go to Borough Council. Brendan said the street will be repaved, and it is possible the issue will be addressed during that process.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Brendan and seconded by Helise and carried by a vote of 5-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Zoë Warner