

Green Team Meeting

July 16, 2019

Topics of Discussion

- Website Information
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Connors outlined the various information provided to residents on the Township's website. This includes information regarding electronics recycling events, glass recycling events and drop-off locations, and the Township's yard waste drop-off center.
- Social Media
 - Mr. Connors also highlighted the Township's new Facebook page. This platform was discussed as a valuable tool in generating interest in sustainable practices and recycling events. Mr. Connors encouraged everyone to like the page and spread the word of its existence.
 - Members in attendance were encouraged to download Group Me (a group-based instant messaging application) in order to stay better connected and facilitate ideas between meetings.
 - Multiple members of the Green Team highlighted the utility of using the Next-Door platform to update residents of events and initiatives of the Township.
- Special Guest
 - Mr. Russel Grego, Public Works Director came before the Green Team to outline various practices procedures in place for the composting and brush collection programs.
 - It was recommended the Township highlight summer Saturday collection times & dates with an additional sign at the entrance of the Recycle Center (253 Zediker Station Road).
 - Another recommendation emphasized the need to physically advertise events on bulletin boards and common areas throughout the Township (Parks, Township Building, etc.)
 - Township Supervisor Burns identified the need to create a comprehensive handout outlining the sustainable practices conducted by the Township and their availability for residents.
 - Installation of recycling receptacles in parks was identified as an immediate goal.
- Township Glass Recycling Event
 - Mr. Connors presented the preliminary plans for the requested glass collection event to be held within the Township. The event is scheduled to take place on August 24th at the Public Works Facility (680 Floral Hill Drive) from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.) He outlined the logistics including the required manpower and costs of the endeavor.
 - An invitation was extended to all members of the Green Team to serve in a voluntary capacity during the event.

- Michael Brothers Hauling and Recycling was identified to provide three glass recycling receptacles (clear, green, brown). The overall cost estimate received includes transportation of the receptacles to and from the event. Mr. Conners highlighted that using a third-party hauler reduced the estimated labor costs and limits the overall liability of the Township.
- Advertising the parameters of the event
 - The need to clearly state that glass must be both cleaned and pre-separated prior to arrival to facilitate a continuous traffic flow during the event was identified as a priority.
- Roadway Litter Cleanup
 - Public education was highlighted as an opportunity to discuss the dangers and damage caused by littering.
 - Distribute materials within Trinity East Elementary School. Speak before the students e.g. litter bug campaign from years past.
 - Identify “top 10” roads that need addressed. Public Works Director Grego stated he would formulate a list by the next meeting. Ultimately, one or two roads will be selected by the Green Team for a cleanup event during the fall.
 - Reaching out to local prisons and individuals needing community service hours was discussed as being solutions to help clean up the Township.
 - Enforcement
 - A brief discussion highlighted the lack of enforcement for littering from state and local police.
- Act 101
 - Mr. Conners presented a brief PowerPoint regarding the Act 101 recycling program and its requirements.
 - South Strabane is mandated to recycle due to its population density being greater than 300 residents per square mile.
 - Many Act 101 funding resources emanate from \$2 per ton fee levied on residential waste
 - Section 902 – provides up to \$350,000 for recycling equipment (requires 10% match by the Township). South Strabane is excluded from this funding source due to a deficient ordinance (Township permits open burning on Wednesdays and Saturdays).
 - Section 904 performance grants – based on tonnage recycled by businesses, organizations, residents, organic waste, etc.
 - The funding history was discussed (approximately \$20,000 is received from this program every other year).
 - These resources may be allocated to fund Green Team initiatives.
 - Businesses face the same requirements as Township residents (must recycle paper, cardboard, aluminum, and plastics).

- Mr. Conners outlined past practices in receiving data from businesses explaining that those numbers collected are eventually aggregated into the total number sent to the state for which the Township's 904 revenues are based on.
 - With increased participation by Township businesses, it can be reasonably expected that the Township will receive a greater portion of performance funds.
 - Mr. Burns stated the need to enforce recycling compliance within individual businesses. He highlighted code enforcement officers as potential solutions to ensure compliance.
 - Mr. Conners highlighted that communication between the Township and businesses will be more open and frequent to ensure that they have all available resources to participate and abide by Act 101 requirements.
 - The Green Team expressed a fear that with the removal of glass from the recycling stream (per Waste Management's directive) the overall tonnage will likely decrease leading to a decrease in section 904 revenues.
- Promotional Campaign
- "South Strabane Strong" "South Strabane Recycles" "South Strabane Cares" etc. Recognize businesses that properly participate in the Act 101 program with a sticker or certificate.
 - Creates an incentive and promotes competition between businesses to abide by the recycling requirement.
 - Also promotes the fact that the businesses are in South Strabane Township and not Washington.

Notes * A general consensus was reached that the third Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. would be an amicable meeting time moving forward. The next scheduled meeting of the Green Team is Thursday, August 15th at 6 p.m.