

Green Team Meeting

September 17, 2020

5:00 P.M.

- The meeting took place in Community Park – 750 Floral Hill Drive, Washington, PA 15301

Attendees: Bracken Burns (Supervisor), Rich Luketich (Supervisor), Assistant to the Township Manager Patrick Conners, Laynee Zipko, Mary Helicke, Mark McCurdy, Bill Ursic, Colleen Johnson, Penny Steggles, Karen & Aiden McCoy, and Janie Deemer.

Topics of Discussion

- Update Regarding Aiden McCoy's Eagle Scout Project

- Mr. Burns introduced Karen & Aiden McCoy to the Green Team highlighting that Aiden is working towards earning his Eagle Scout certification in partnership with the Township for a welcome sign at a designated entrance point within the Township. Aiden reported that he would be meeting with the local Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America to discuss his project in effort to get permission from the Board to move forward. He noted that he had secured permission from CFS Bank to construct a sign on their property (730 E. Beau Street). He also noted that Stimmell's Greenhouse has pledged a donation of flowers to help enhance the project. He cited that should the BSA Board grant approval for his proposal he would be reaching out to local home improvement stores to secure hardware for the sign installation. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners stated that a final size and design for the sign would need selected before Aiden could secure quotes from sign manufacturers. Aiden distributed various sign illustrations from surrounding municipalities. A discussion concerning the ultimate sign design, messaging, and material ensued. Mr. Burns highlighted that an organization such as PSATS may have suggestions/resources for the Township to consider. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners reported that he would continue to work with Mr. McCoy in effort to select a final sign design.

- Recap – Roadside Cleanup Event – September 12, 2020

- Assistant to the Township Manager Conners thanked all those who volunteered to pick up litter along Fischer Road on September 12th. He noted that a total of 12 trash bags were collected over the span of approximately 1 hour. Ms. Deemer inquired regarding overtime pay for the Police Officers who assisted in closing down the road during the cleanup. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners stated that the two Officers who assisted were already on duty and were not compensated in any other method than their regular hourly pay.

- Recycling Letter to Residents

- Assistant to the Township Manager Conners reported that he had implemented the requested changes from the Green Team to the draft letter to residents on the topic of recycling. Ms. Helicke noted the letter should highlight the recent audit

conducted by the Township. Ms. Johnson highlighted that listing the addresses for the recycling center would be helpful. Mr. Luketich noted that the letter should omit the discussion highlighting the current contract with Waste Management. Assistant to the Township Manager Connors thanked the group for their feedback.

- **Comprehensive Resident List**

- Mr. Burns noted the Township needs a comprehensive database which includes all current residents and their address. He noted this would assist during the drive for increased recycling participation. A discussion ensued.

- **Act 101 Grant Award**

- Assistant to the Township Manager Connors reported that on September 2, 2020 the Township was awarded a grant through the DEP's Act 101 Recycling Performance Program in the amount of \$24,032.09. He briefly outlined the parameters of the program with the group. He noted that the next highest award earned by the Township was \$11,672.00 in 2019. He highlighted the award factors in the recycling tonnage from both residences and commercial businesses generated during the prior year. He thanked the Green Team for their assistance in generating interest and ideas for the recycling programs within the Township.

- **Open Burning Ordinance Proposal**

- Assistant to the Township Manager Connors distributed the most recent draft of open burning restrictions which were considered by the Board of Supervisors during their August 25th meeting. Mr. Burns reported that the Board had tabled consideration of the matter to allow for the Green Team to review the proposal. Assistant to the Township Manager Connors went over the following changes within the proposed draft:
 - Moving setbacks for open burning activities from 25 to 50 feet from both property lines and structures;
 - Eliminating open burning activities for land development operations;
 - Establishing permissible open burning hours of 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays; and
 - Establishing the Township Fire Chief as the primary point of contact for all open burning activity.
- Ms. Zipko expressed her opinion that the proposed permissible hours for burning on Saturdays and Wednesdays should not be extended. Assistant to the Township Manager Connors noted the Fire Chief's recommendation to encourage burning in the morning/afternoon to allow the fires to dissipate prior to nightfall. Ms. Helicke inquired why open burning should be permitted anywhere in the Township. She noted that the Township's recycle area is available for all residents to dispose of limbs, leaves, and yard waste. Mr. McCurdy echoed Ms. Helicke's thoughts. Mr. Luketich noted that agricultural and land development operations would be detrimentally affected if a total burning ban was implemented. Ms. Zipko reported that farms are protected from municipal burning ordinances. Ms. Deemer noted the difficulties associated with transporting large amounts of organic waste to the Township's Recycle Area. A discussion ensued regarding agricultural burning. Mr. Luketich noted that an exemption should be made in the Ordinance for agricultural operations.

After some further discussion, Mr. McCurdy moved to recommend the Board of Supervisors ban residential burning within the Township. Ms. Helicke seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Assistant to the Township Manager Conners stated that he would work with the Fire Chief and Township Manager to develop legislation which bans residential burning in the Township for the Board of Supervisor's consideration.

- **Beautification Awards**

- Mr. Burns discussed his vision of recognizing residential properties who demonstrate beautification efforts and "green" practices on their property. He highlighted his efforts with a similar program for Washington County. He noted the award could be given to individual property owners in the various neighborhoods within the Township (i.e. Strabane Manor, Bradford Run, Windsor Highlands, etc.). Ms. Steggles voiced her support for the proposal noting that local donations could be procured for awards (i.e. Home Depot, Stimmell's, etc.). The group agreed to build upon the idea moving forward.

Adjournment: 6:15 p.m.