

Green Team Meeting

January 21, 2021

5:00 P.M.

The meeting took place over Zoom.

Attendees: Bracken Burns (Supervisor), Assistant to the Township Manager Patrick Conners, Township Intern Renna Wrubleski, Mark McCurdy, Penny Steggles, William Ursic, and Janie Deemer.

Also in Attendance: Karen McCoy, Aiden McCoy, and Laura Delach

Topics of Discussion

- The Penn State Extension: A discussion with Ms. Laura Delach

- Ms. Laura Delach, Master Gardener, of the Washington County Penn State Extension joined the discussion with the Green Team and highlighted her organization's relationship to the County and nearby municipalities. She cited numerous examples of community projects including the Children's Garden and Fairgrounds Gardens located at the Washington County Fairgrounds. She noted that many current programs are "contact free" to allow for the safe enjoyment of nature during the pandemic. She continued by citing numerous educational programs that are hosted by the Washington County Penn State Extension including self-guided garden tours, composting, gardening, and pest control. She then outlined future programming including the installation of community garden boxes (similar to little library drop-off stations) throughout the County.
- Mr. Burns highlighted the Township's four Public Parks noting there is an opportunity to partner with the Extension to promote educational opportunities within the Township. He continued by inviting Ms. Delach to an upcoming Community Park Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting. Mr. McCurdy echoed Mr. Burn's sentiments noting that Community Park can be a huge asset to the region. A discussion ensued regarding the various methods of composting.
- Assistant to the Township Manager Conners highlighted various grants available through the DEP. He highlighted that the DEP's Environmental Education Grant would require a partner to submit an application. He noted that Municipalities cannot formally submit an application. He highlighted that the Washington County Conservation District or Penn State Extension could be an ideal partner. The Green team welcomed the idea.

- Update Regarding Aiden McCoy's Eagle Scout Project

- Aiden McCoy outlined his progress regarding the Eagle Scout Welcome Sign Project. He highlighted the property owner of CFS bank affirmed their willingness to serve as the host for the Welcome Sign (730 E. Beau Street). He cited that he reviewed the design and size of the sign with the property owner. He next reported that Pennsylvania Correctional Industries (PCI) had provided a quote for the sign

at a substantial discount when compared to previous quotes (approx. \$700). He next discussed his fundraising efforts highlighting that his family and members of his Troop had donated \$420 to this point. He inquired if the Township could assist with the remaining deficit. Mr. Burns affirmed that he would work with his fellow Board colleagues to secure the remaining funds. Aiden continued by citing a donation commitment from Stimmell's Greenhouse. Aiden concluded by noting Lowe's and Home Depot are designated businesses (as outlined by the BSA) that can provide supplies such as lumber, paint, nails, etc. for the project.

- Mr. Burns noted that the Township should document the project on the Township's website. He also encouraged Aiden to engage Ms. Delach of the Penn State Extension in conversation regarding the beautification of the area surrounding the sign (i.e. flower/shrub selection).
- Mr. McCurdy stated that the Township should require a letter from CFS Bank permitting the sign. Aiden affirmed he is already in possession of such a correspondence. Mr. Burns noted that letter could be kept on file by the Township.

- **Beautification Awards**

- Assistant to the Township Manager Connors noted that a notification of the future Beautification Program was posted on the Township's Facebook Page on January 14th. He provided the illustration for the Green Team's viewing.
 - Mr. Burns noted that information concerning the program should be provided to local home improvement stores and greenhouses.
 - Mr. McCurdy stated that Ms. Delach and the local Chapter of the Penn State Extension could be a valuable resource for ultimately selecting winners of the program. Ms. Steggles also noted that members of the Martha Washington Garden Club can assist in judging.

- **Open Burning Update**

- Assistant to the Township Manager Connors reported that the Board of Supervisors would be discussing the existing Open Burning Ordinance during their legislative meeting on February 9th.

- **Recycle Center Update**

- Aluminum Bin
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Connors reported that after a suggestion of the Green team during their November 19th meeting Staff has developed a proposal to establish an aluminum recycling option for Township residents at the Recycle Center. He provided illustrations of an existing trailer once used by the Township's Public Works Department that could be retrofitted to serve as a mobile receptacle for aluminum cans. He highlighted the receptacle could be constructed for an estimated \$1,100.00. He noted that local scrappers such as Brookman Iron and Metals and/or General alloys will pay for (based on market price of the commodity) and recycle the materials.
 - Ms. Deemer expressed her apprehension to providing a service that many residents will not use. She highlighted that Waste Management already collects

aluminum in the Township's mandated curbside recycling collection program. Mr. Burns stated that the idea behind the additional program is to provide a service for residents who are seeking to go above and beyond in regards to recycling. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners highlighted a similar endeavor operated by Michael Brothers Hauling (901 Horning Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236). He noted their Recycling Center offers a "one stop shop" for all recyclables (i.e. cardboard, aluminum, plastic, glass, etc.). He stated that he personally uses the facility and it is frequently used by residents from the greater Pittsburgh region. After some further discussion, the Green Team recommended moving forward with the project.

- Signage
 - Township Intern Ms. Renna Wrubleski provided illustrations for "thank you" signage which would be placed at the exit of the Township's Recycling Center. Members of the Green Team thanked Ms. Wrubleski for her efforts.

- **2021 Goals**

- Mr. Burns opened the floor for recommendations for goals of the Green Team for 2021.
 - Mr. Ursic noted the Township should increase communication over social media regarding recycling activities and programming.
 - Ms. Deemer highlighted the need for the Township's newsletter to be mailed out.

Adjournment: 6:20 p.m.