

## **Green Team Meeting**

**September 19, 2019**

**6:00 P.M.**

- The meeting took place at South Strabane's Community Park (750 Floral Hill Drive)

Attendees: Assistant to the Township Manager Patrick Conners, Bracken Burns (Supervisor), Rich Luketich (Supervisor), Mark McCurdy, Kathy Pienkowski, and Janie Deemer.

### Topics of Discussion

- Glass Collection Event (September 28<sup>th</sup>)
  - Mr. Conners outlined the structure of the event, highlighting that the Pennsylvania Resources Council will coordinate the event's logistics in partnership with CAP Glass. He stated that one dumpster would be delivered to 550 Washington Road the day of the event and would be removed later that day. He cited that the event would last from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and would be free of charge for any interested participants.
  - Mr. Conners highlighted that an impressive turnout would assist the Township in securing a partnership with PRC and CAP Glass moving forward, with the overall goal of having a permanent drop-off site for Township residents.
  - Mr. Conners distributed a sign-up sheet for the event. He highlighted that PRC encourages volunteers from the host municipality to attend.
    - Ms. Pienkowsj agreed to take event flyers to the Washington Citizens Library to promote awareness.
- Roadway Cleanup
  - With the assistance of a list of Township roads provided by Public Works Director Grego, the Green Team previously identified Berry Road as a primary area for litter pickup. After some discussion, the Date of October 5<sup>th</sup> was set for volunteers to clean up Berry Road. Mr. Conners stated that he would distribute the selected date and ancillary information to members of the Green Team not in attendance.
  - Mr. Conners stated that with the assistance of Supervisor Luketich, he had been in contact with the Washington County Court System in effort to secure a partnership with the County's "work release" program to assist in cleaning up various Township roadways. He stated that the Township must sign the Community Services and Furlough In To Services Agency Agreement prior to consideration/selection for the Program.
    - Mr. Conners highlighted that few weekend dates are available through the program, citing that worker availability would be more likely on a weekday during the fall of 2019. The Board of Supervisors will be updated at their next meeting.
  - Supervisor Luketich stated that after reaching out to PennDOT, it was confirmed that volunteers can cleanup State and Interstate highways.
- Park Recycle Bins

- Mr. Connors distributed an illustration of a proposed recycling receptacle which would be placed at Community Park within the main pavilion area. He stated that after acquiring a quote from three separate companies, the approximate price was \$700. He outlined that the bin would be secure and would clearly state that only plastic bottles and aluminum cans would be accepted. He concluded by explaining the system for relaying the recyclables from the park pavilion to the Township for once per month curbside collection.
  - Supervisor Burns stated he was concerned with the lack of options for recycling glass at the park pavilion.
  - Present members outlined their concern for the cost of the presented bin. They voiced their support for recycling receptacles, but at a reduced cost.
- Single Use Plastics
  - Mr. Connors discussed the potential purchase of an updated water fountain for the Township's Municipal Building. He stated that many public facilities have filtered water fountains which allow for re-usable bottles to be easily filled. He highlighted that such a resource would greatly reduce the number of plastic bottles which are generated at the Municipal Building and would encourage sustainable water consumption. He stated that such a system would cost anywhere between \$800 - \$1,000.
    - The Green Team expressed concerns over the cost of such a system. Supervisor Luketich stated that a water delivery service may provide a most cost-effective and environmentally conscious solution.
    - Ms. Janie Deemer recommended that the Township Install Brita filters to provide filtered water at a reduced cost.
- Commercial Recycling Participation
  - Supervisor Luketich stated Fire Chief Reese may be able to report on commercial recycling during his annual fire inspections.
  - Mr. Connors stated that it will be a goal of the Township to establish correspondence with Township businesses and their Act 101 obligations on a consistent basis.
  - Mr. McCurdy highlighted that it will be just as important for the Township to recognize those businesses who recycle just as punishing those that don't.
- Residential Recycling Participation
  - The Green Team discussed efforts to increase resident participation in the mandated recycle program.
    - Supervisor Burns expressed his desire for a letter from the Township which explains the Township's obligation per Act 101(Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act). He stated the contents should explain how to properly recycle and highlight why it matters (funds generated, reduced waste, etc.). He concluded by stating the letter should outline established penalties for those who do not participate/comply.

- Supervisor Burns stated the Township should task a Code Enforcement Officer or other employee to drive throughout the Township to visually inspect who recycles and who does not.
    - The Green Team also discussed having Waste Management conduct a compliance audit.
    - Supervisor Burns tasked Assistant to the Township Manager Conners to research how other municipalities enforce compliance for Act 101 residential recycling requirements.
- Future Topics of Discussion
  - Supervisor Burns stated that Green Team projects should not strictly be limited to recycling and litter pickup, highlighting that Township beautification efforts are of upmost importance.
    - Tree plantings and landscaping improvements along Township points of entry were discussed.
    - Supervisor Luketich highlighted the landscaping in Billy Bell Park could be improved.
    - Supervisor Burns briefly discussed the Tree City USA Program that was highlighted at the August Green Team meeting.
    - Ms. Pienkowski discussed her experiences driving out of state, citing the attractive landscaping projects in other municipalities.
  - Supervisor Luketich discussed acquiring the land strip between Route 19 and the Township Building (owned by Huntington Bank). He discussed the property as an ideal location for an electronic welcome sign which may be used to generate revenues for other Township projects. He also highlighted the Oak Spring Road Fire Station as another ideal location for electronic signage.
  - The Green Team briefly discussed the suggestion of many residents regarding an off-leash dog area within Community Park.