

Green Team Meeting

October 9, 2019

6:00 P.M.

- The meeting took place at the South Strabane Township Municipal Building (550 Washington Road)

Attendees: Assistant to the Township Manager Patrick Conners, Bracken Burns (Supervisor), Rich Luketich (Supervisor), Laynee Zipko (Supervisor), Mark McCurdy, Mary Helicke, Michael Sherrieb, Robin Richards, Emily Minor, and Janie Deemer.

Topics of Discussion

- Recap of Glass Collection Event (September 28th)
 - Mr. Conners began by thanking those members of the Green Team who were able to volunteer their time and efforts during the PRC glass collection event. He highlighted that PRC's participation survey captured 174 responses but stated that closer to 200 participated. He also highlighted that out of the 174 survey responses, 65 were South Strabane residents, accounting for 37% of the overall total. He concluded by reporting that 3.93 tons of glass was collected at the event.
 - Supervisor Burns inquired regarding a permanent solution for glass recycling. Mr. Conners reported that PRC representatives were impressed with the turnout in South Strabane Township and would be providing additional details and pricing for a permanent glass receptacle in partnership with CAP Glass. He highlighted that with discussions regarding logistics, pricing, and funding likely to take place over the coming month(s), an additional "pop-up" glass event is recommended.
 - Supervisor Burns stated that continued collection events are not a viable long-term solution. He stated that ideally the Township would cut out the middleman and provide high quality cullet directly to the manufactures for processing, perhaps even for a fee.
 - Mr. Sherrieb provided Mr. Conners with a list of glass vendors in the Pittsburgh region.
 - The Green Team's consensus was to request an additional collection event through PRC in November/December with continued research into a permanent solution.
- Recap of Roadway Cleanup Event (October 5th)
 - Mr. Conners thanked the members of the Green Team as well as Clean up Our County, Inc. who participated in the Berry Road litter pickup event. He reported that 17 volunteers were able to remove litter along the entirety of Berry Road over the course of 2 hours.
 - Ms. Deemer highlighted that Mr. & Mrs. Gaylord Plants experienced an unpleasant situation where a vehicle nearly hit them while collecting litter along Berry Road. Mr. Conners explained the traffic situation, highlighting that shortly after Berry Road was completely re-opened the Police were

hailed on an emergency call. Potential traffic solutions including having Green Team members serve as flaggers were discussed.

- Supervisor Luketich stated that neighbors along Beagle Club Road would be conducting their own litter pickup event on Saturday October 12th. He also stated that residents who want to clean up Township Roads should be given equipment and recognized for their efforts.
- The Green Team agreed that the next litter pickup event shall be held on Sunday November 3rd at 8:00 a.m. with a focus on Davis School Road.
- Curbside Leaf Collection (Fall 2019)
 - Mr. Conners reported that beginning on Monday, October 28th the Public Works Department would begin collecting leaves placed in biodegradable bags at curbside. He highlighted that collections will take place on the subsequent 5 Mondays except for November 11th due to the observance of Veteran's Day (collection will instead occur on November 12th).
- Recycling – Commercial
 - Supervisor Burns stated that the Township needs to begin the communication process with all Township Businesses who did not recycle/respond to the Act 101 reporting form for the previous year. He outlined that the letter should explain Commercial and Industrial obligations per Act 101 and the Township's Code. He highlighted that additional correspondence should be sent to those who do not respond explaining repercussions including fines and penalties.
 - Supervisor Luketich stated that businesses should be audited for recycling compliance during code enforcement checks and fire inspections.
 - Mr. Conners read aloud the requirements set forth by Act 101 which include a Municipal Ordinance requiring commercial and institutional establishments to recycle high-grade office paper, aluminum, corrugated paper and leaf waste.
 - Supervisor Burns highlighted that the Township's Ordinance should be amended to require businesses to recycle steel and bi-metal cans.
- Recycling – Residential
 - The Green Team briefly discussed the global challenges of recycling. Mr. Conners outlined the Green Star recycling center's process including many of the challenges that they face. He reported that he would provide a video explaining the recycling separation process to better illustrate the complexities of the recycling marketplace.
 - Supervisor Burns stated the Township needs to discuss the possibility of working with Waste Management to track recycling compliance/participation for residences throughout the Township. He stated that another strategy could entail Code Enforcement Officers following the recycling truck on collection days to tabulate who is participating.
 - Supervisor Burns stated that an official correspondence from the Township should be sent to all residents outlining the requirement to recycle and the benefits the Township receives through the Act 101 program.
 - Ms. Minor stated that goal should be to include as much pertinent "green" info as possible into the correspondence.

- Mr. Conners inquired if the Board should pass a formal motion establishing a residential recycling procedure which would include the mailing. The Supervisors in attendance stated that would be fine.
- Beautification Efforts
 - Supervisor Burns highlighted that in Ethiopia the country planted 350 million trees in 6 hours with an overall goal to plant 1 billion trees in 2019. He continued the discussion by requesting Green Team feedback for planting locations and projects.
 - The Green Team discussed planting trees and establishing landscaping along highly traveled points of entry into the Township. New welcome signage was also discussed. Mr. Conners stated that he would ask Public Works Director Grego to list all entrance points which could be evaluated at an upcoming Green Team meeting.
 - Supervisor Zipko stated that highlighting that South Strabane is a “litter free” community may discourage people from littering.
 - Supervisor Luketich highlighted that Driscoll Park recently had trees removed and may need new plantings.
 - The Green Team asked staff to investigate low cost tree programs to distribute to interested residents who may want to plant them on their private property.
 - Mr. Conners reported that on Friday October 4th, Karen and Aiden McCoy visited the Township’s Municipal Building in effort to complete a community involvement merit badge. He stated that Aiden, a member of a local Boy Scout Troop, would be in contact with Staff in the development of a community project that will assist him in the completion of his Eagle Scout certification. He cited that a member of Aiden’s Troop helped repair “Welcome to Washington” signage in preparation of the Pony League World Series this past spring. Mr. Conners concluded by highlighting that Aiden may be attending a future Green Team meeting to communicate his vision for a future project.
- New Ideas, Current Events, and Final Thoughts
 - Supervisor Luketich provided literature regarding sunscreen stations in Township parks. He also stated that cigarette disposal units should be installed.
 - Supervisor Burns inquired regarding the installation of recycling receptacles in Community Park. Mr. Conners stated that he would discuss the progress of the project with Public Works Director Grego and report back to the Green Team.
 - Supervisor Burns inquired regarding the strip of land between Route 19 and the Township’s Municipal complex. Supervisor Luketich stated Huntington Bank owns the land and could donate it to the Township.
 - Citing a prior discussion, Ms. Helicke stated that she would be in favor of electronic signage in front of the Municipal Building. Mr. Sherrieb highlighted that Township’s Code has strict guidelines concerning such signage.
 - Supervisor Luketich concluded the meeting by imploring the Township to curtail its use of single use plastics including water bottles. He discussed alternatives including water cooler systems. He concluded by discussing the dangers of water

bottles, citing numerous studies that have shown harmful chemicals that have leached into water that is bottled.