

Green Team Meeting

November 21, 2019

6:00 P.M.

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

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

Visitors: Karen & Aiden McCoy

Topics of Discussion

- Introduction of Colleen Johnson
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Conners introduced Ms. Colleen Johnson to the Green Team stating that she was formally appointed during the last Board of Supervisors meeting. Ms. Johnson stated that she had recently retired as a Public-School teacher and was looking forward to serving the Township.
- Eagle Scout Project (Karen and Aiden McCoy)
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Conners introduced Karen and Aiden McCoy to the Green Team. He stated that Aiden will be working towards his Eagle Scout certification and will need to complete a community service-based project in 2020. He highlighted that the Green Team is be an ideal partner for any beautification effort suggested. Aiden stated that preliminary ideas include welcome sign rehabilitation and or tree planting in public spaces. Mr. Burns stated that Township entry points would be an excellent location for such a project. Mr. Luketich inquired if the entire local Troop would be involved in the project. Aiden affirmed that would be the case. Mr. Conners stated he will work with Public Works Supervisor Grego to establish a working map for Mr. McCoy and his Troop outlining Township entry points and associated signage.
- Recap Roadside Cleanup Events
 - Washington County Community Service Program – November 26, 2019
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Conners stated that on November 26th participants in the Washington County Community Service Program are available to clean up litter along roadways within the Township. Ms. Deemer highlighted that herself and Ms. Minor had recently completed cleanup operations on Davis School Road. After a brief discussion, Locust Avenue was selected for the cleanup effort.
 - Mr. Luketich highlighted a property along Zediker Station Road that has accumulated a large amount of trash/scrap over the years. He highlighted the property is likely owned by CNX Energy. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners stated he would have Code Enforcement look into the matter.

- In-house Events
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Connors thanked members of the Green Team for their efforts in both organized and ad-hoc cleanup events. After some discussion it was determined that the following roads have been cleaned since the establishment of the Green Team:
 - Berry Road, Zediker Station Road, Rankin Road, Mitchell Road, Kopper Kettle Road, Meyers Road, Beagle Club Road, Lakeview Drive, Meadows View Road, Munce Ridge Road, and Davis School Road.
 - Ms. Zipko stated that she has fielded numerous comments and positive feedback regarding the roadside cleanup efforts, particularly regarding Berry Road.
 - Ms. Deemer inquired regarding a street map of Township Roads. Assistant to the Township Manager Connors stated he would email PDF roadmaps to members of the Green Team.
- Update Regarding Glass Recycling
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Connors discussed the Township's situation regarding glass recycling options for residents. He highlighted that the Pennsylvania Resources Council who partners with CAP Glass is re-evaluating its strategy concerning "pop-up" glass recycling events. He stated that PRC is hopeful to offer the events again in the Spring of 2020. He reported that none of Pittsburgh's four glass recycling facilities can offer a complete solution for the Township. He cited that facility operators highlight low profit margins and high transportation costs as prohibitions to expanded glass collection and recycling services. He concluded by discussing establishing a partnership with Michael Brothers Hauling who served as the hauler and recycler of glass during the Township's August glass collection event. Mr. Burns stated the Township needs a permanent solution. He highlighted that Michael Brothers Hauling may serve as a bridge to a more ideal alternative. Mr. Luketich voiced his support of ordering dumpsters for residents to drop off glass immediately.
- Recycle Center (253 Zediker Station Road)
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Connors stated the Township has partnered with Illegal Dump Free Pennsylvania to install motion-activated cameras at the site of the old Public Works Facility (253 Zediker Station Road). He highlighted the facility would have expanded drop-off hours for leaves, limbs, and brush moving forward.
- Waste Management Recycling Center Video
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Connors presented a video illustrating single-stream recycling collection and sorting that was provided by Waste Management.
- Township Conservation Efforts
 - Reduction of single-use plastics
 - Mr. Luketich began discussion by highlighting the Pennsylvania Legislature has placed a moratorium on plastic bag regulations, restricting

municipalities from implementing bans or taxes on those items. He stated the Township should write to local elected officials outlining the Township's desire for more autonomy concerning restricting the use of single-use plastics.

- Mr. Luketich inquired regarding the Township's efforts to integrate compressed natural gas (CNG) fueled vehicles into the Township's fleet. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners stated that he was unaware of any efforts to purchase a CNG vehicle. Mr. Burns voiced his support for creating a policy to purchase alternative fuel vehicles for the Township's fleet.
- W&J Energy Audit
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Conners distributed the findings of a preliminary energy audit conducted by W&J's Center for Energy Policy and Management on the Township's Municipal buildings. He highlighted that the Public Works and Police Department buildings fielded above-average scores on the Energy Star ranking system.
- Residential and Commercial Communication Efforts (Act 101)
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Conners highlighted that the preliminary 2020 Budget has allocated funding for a quarterly paper newsletter which will relay pertinent news and information to Township residents. He stated that the first newsletter would be an ideal opportunity to include a stand-alone correspondence from the Green Team which would discuss recycling compliance and other sustainable practices that residents can implement in their daily lives. He also discussed the upcoming Act 101 compliance letters which would be mailed to commercial entities within the Township in early-December.
 - Ms. Minor inquired regarding Commercial compliance with the Act 101 program. Mr. Burns highlighted that compliance is mandatory per state law. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners highlighted that ideas generated during prior meeting such as using Code Enforcement Officers and Firefighters to check on compliance would be implemented moving forward. The details of such inspections were briefly discussed.
- New Ideas, Current Events, and Final Thoughts
 - Mr. Luketich discussed a plastic bottle cap collection drive implemented by students of Wylandville Elementary School (Cannon-McMillon School District). He distributed a news article and contact information regarding their efforts. He highlighted that the overall goal of the program was the creation of a bench made solely of the plastic bottle caps.
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Conners gauged interest in bringing in a certified arborist to an upcoming Green Team meeting. He highlighted the arborist could assist the Township in crafting a tree planting strategy for public parks and other public areas. Mr. Luketich highlighted that Range Resources may be able to assist in such a project, citing that they staff a full-time forester.
 - Assistant to the Township Manager Conners highlighted that Range Resources is in the preliminary stages of implementing a conservation area at the former Munce

tract within the Township. He stated that he would keep the Team updated on the status of the proposal.

- Mr. Luketich voiced his concerns regarding the cost of a newly installed pet-waste station located in Streater Park. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners stated that he would look further into the situation.
- Ms. Deemer inquired regarding local school districts concerning Act 101 requirements. Assistant to the Township Manager Conners stated that he would look further into the matter. Ms. Deemer also stated that Ms. Penny Steggles expressed her interest in joining the Green Team. Mr. Burns stated that she could be instated during the upcoming Board meeting on December 10th.

Adjournment: 7:25 p.m.