



MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Judy Cooper, Marie North, Derek Pinkham, Jessie Snyder (online), Sara Seipel (online), Todd Fahringer (online)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Tom Petrucci, Township Manager; Chris Strohler, Long-Range Planner; Mike Elias, MS4 Coordinator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kate Semmens – Science Director, Nurture Nature Center

Minutes – December 19, 2022

AGENDA ITEM # 1 - CALL TO ORDER

Judy called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

AGENDA ITEM # 2 - ROLL CALL

Following Frank Petrocelli’s resignation in November, Judy (Vice-Chair) assumed duties as Chair. All current GAC members were present for the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM # 3 - ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

- A. Motion to accept November meeting minutes made by Judy; seconded by Marie.

AGENDA ITEM # 4 – OLD BUSINESS

A. REPORT OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES (max 15 minutes)

- a. Review outstanding action items:

Task	Responsibility	Update
Discuss process for finding, reviewing, validating, and publishing GAC facts	All members	Group discussed the previous process and agreed to collect facts individually, then send to Chris and Mike with proper sources. Chris and Mike will collate and review with the group at the following monthly meeting before posting.
Communication plan for single-use/film-type plastics recycling flyer	Tom	Question on if the recycling flyer could be included in future refuse bills. Tom said it was too late for the January bill, but staff would investigate the options/cost for the future.

Newsletter Communications	Chris/Tom/Mike	Question about opportunity for GAC information/facts to be included in the Twp newsletter. Staff relayed that the newsletter content will vary each quarter depending on season/priority. Group suggested adding the recycling flyer, but content would need to be reformatted. Marie suggested a list of invasive plants to avoid (provided by PA Dept. of Ag). Staff will coordinate content needs for the next newsletter.
Waste Management Plastic Film Recycling Pilot Program	Tom	Tom inquired with WM if this program would be expanded to areas in the east coast. WM responded that the program is not expanded at this time, but they will notify contracted municipalities if any changes are proposed to the recycling process. Tom informed the group that the current WM contract runs through 2023 and the Twp will go out to bid for a new contract.
Lehigh Valley EAC Network	Sara	Sara reported that she attended a LV EAC Network Steering Committee meeting to organize a regional EAC forum and establish guidelines/standards for EACs. Sara was uncertain if this was primarily a regional effort or in conjunction with the statewide EAC network. There will be a larger, statewide EAC network meeting in the spring.

AGENDA ITEM # 5 - NEW BUSINESS

- a. Group needs to review the bylaws and when member terms end. Copies of the bylaws and relevant information will be sent to the group prior to January’s meeting. Group will review bylaws, member terms, and elect officers in January. Marie suggested using a co-facilitator approach instead of Chair and Vice Chair. Staff will assume duties of Secretary (meeting agendas, minutes, etc.).
- b. Chris provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Update process (high level, sets the vision for the Twp) and how the community has been engaged over the past few years. The Twp Planning Commission authorized a release of the draft plan for public comment in December and a public open house will occur at the end of January. Following public comment, the Board of Commissioners will vote to adopt the plan. The most significant component of the plan is the future land use plan which serves as a framework for any potential regulatory changes in the future. Chris explained how the goals of the Comprehensive Plan could be implemented and highlighted several of the implementation items relevant to the GAC including:
 - Overview of recycling practices/current contract review
 - Development of resource protection ordinances
 - Resource (Open Space/Agriculture/Historic) preservation planning
- c. Website/member bio discussion was tabled for the next meeting.
- d. CREATE Resilience Hub

- i. Kate from Nature Nature Center talked about the CREATE Resilience Project to help municipalities be more resilient in the face of climate change. This project has been funded to help link interns with municipalities to help map/assess climate vulnerabilities in the municipality. Interns will help ID hazards, learn more about concerns/issues, and better understand governance on a local level between January and May. Municipalities and interns will then participate in a forum in the Fall. The immediate need for December is to confirm participation from municipalities to ensure that there is funding and interns to start in January 2023.
- ii. Chris conveyed that while this is a worthwhile project, it is not the best time for the Twp to participate right now while still wrapping up the Comprehensive Planning process and several other efforts. Chris and staff also identified that this type of decision would need to be presented and agreed upon by the Twp Board of Commissioners, which would be after the deadline to commit to the project. Chris encouraged Kate to work with other municipalities who were ready to go in 2023 and that the Twp would revisit the project if it is funded for 2024.

AGENDA ITEM # 6 – PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

AGENDA ITEM # 7 – ADJOURNMENT

- A. Judy made motion to adjourn at 7:22 PM; seconded by Todd.