# Meeting Agenda and Minutes

1. **Call to Order, Attendees, and Agenda**
   1. Attendees and New Members: Bill Silverstein, Ken Rose, Paul Jacobs, Jason DeVries, David Grady, Marty Malloy (with apologies from Leo Stahl and Jane Miluski)
   2. Approval of the agenda: the agenda was approved as circulated
2. **Approval of the Minutes: April 24:** the minutes from the April 24, 2021 meeting were approved as circulated.
3. **Old Business and Open Issues**
   1. Township e-newsletter
      1. Ken drafted both a newsletter blurb and initial/coordinating edits to the EAC webpage
      2. Reviewed with Dave G and Mona Price
      3. Future issues quarterly: we agreed that we will need to come up with a list of potential newsletter topics and anticipate the publication schedule. The next newsletter will be issued
      4. Website could use more informational links – possibly in connection with next item: Mr. Rose recommended that links be added to the EAC’s website page for two resolutions: 2020-5 and 2019-8.
   2. Swarthmore Green Advisors program proposal: Mr. Jacobs’ project description was discussed and approved for submission to the Swarthmore Green Advisors program. Mr. Malloy asked whether Swarthmore expected a stipend to be provided by NPT and Mr. Jacobs said that he did not think this was the case.
   3. Composting program –
      1. info from meeting with Media: we discussed the notes from the meeting with Karen Taussig-Lux on May 5, 2021.



* + 1. next steps: Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Rose, and Mr. Grady agreed to have a discussion about potential composting programs in NPT before the next meeting and report back.
  1. EAC Reporting to/action by the Commissioners (see zero waste below)
  2. Zero Waste
     1. Carr made initial contact with Alex Danovich, zero waste expert. Follow up is for us to schedule a meeting. – we agreed that a meeting should be scheduled with Mr. Danovich but that the details of the meeting could be carried over to the June EAC meeting.
     2. County solid waste planning – we discussed the status of the virtual meeting of the DelCo Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Silverstein indicated that he is considering applying for the open position on DCSWA but has not yet made a final decision. Mr. Malloy indicated that the NPT Commissioners have not received any feedback to the Zero Waste Resolution approved by the Commissioners in the Spring.
  3. Report Back on related Organizations/events
     1. WSSD
     2. Solsmart
     3. RF100 Meeting (15th – Monthly). Did anyone attend May?
     4. Solarize Delco in formation
     5. Solarize Montco 1st
     6. DelCo Sustainability Commission Meetings - Monthly (Alternate Th 6pm or Fri 2pm)

1. **Discussion Topics**
   1. Plan for addressing GHG/Renewable Energy Resolutions
      1. Obtain Radnor Twp report by Practical Energy Solutions published in Feb (not per the template)
      2. Obtain info on Chester County trainings
      3. Three branches?
         1. Near term projects
         2. Public education
         3. Plan writing/tracking
   2. Zero Waste Implementation
      1. Brainstorm list/program models
      2. Actions: Mr. Malloy indicated that pilot programs on some of the areas below would most likely be needed in order to gather data and evaluate costs. This information will be very important to anticipate the next budget cycle.
         1. Composting – next steps?
         2. Trash – Data collection?
         3. Recycling
2. **New Business**
   1. Other Open Grant Applications (anything that could support composting implementation?)
   2. Other New Business
3. **Events/Announcements**
   1. None
4. **Meeting Adjournment:** The next (virtual) EAC meeting will be held on June 23, 2021, starting at 7pm.

After the meeting, Mr. Jacobs circulated the following relevant information:

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 9:58 AM Paul Jacobs <[1003pj@gmail.com](mailto:1003pj@gmail.com)> wrote:

One more useful resource showing the challenge for electrification. DVRPC's energy use survey of Nether Providence,

<https://www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/MunicipalEnergy/mcdDetail.aspx?mcdcode=4204553104>

49% of energy use in the township is residential and of that, 51% of residential energy use is natural gas (with a further 22% fuel oil).  Transitioning away from that is going to be a very big challenge.

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 9:54 AM Paul Jacobs <[1003pj@gmail.com](mailto:1003pj@gmail.com)> wrote:

I went through Radnor's report this morning,

<https://www.radnor.com/DocumentCenter/View/23832/Renewable-Energy-and-Conservation-Plan_FINAL>

And I think there's limits to following this too closely.  We don't have large commercial space and our board of commissioners tends not to be eager to engage in the advocacy work for necessary changes at the state and county level, so a lot of the report is right out at the start.

To achieve zero greenhouse emissions, they divide into three tactics:

1) Reduce energy consumption

2) Electrification

3) Replacing fossil fuels

I think this structure is a useful way for us to approach our efforts.  Our township has focused its efforts thus far on number 1, but as far as I know we've done little on parts 2 and 3.  Electrification is hard and expensive, and will require some careful planning.  Replacing fossil fuels in the immediate future is a bit more straightforward thanks to RECs.

Some steps listed in Radnor's report for us to think about:

Building support from the community - engaging in the public by getting them to commit to carbon neutrality to build support for this effort, cause its not going to all get done by our little team.

Encourage home energy audits - something we can promote

Green leasing - I'm not clear if this is something the township can do directly, but creating a system where landlords can pass on the cost of energy efficiency improvements to tenants to encourage them to do them. This may require some landlord education.

Buying green through the grid - I mentioned this last night, but there's an important note that not all RECs are equal, and this is true.  The cheap RECs do not tend to build new green energy infrastructure, but the more expensive ones are, of course, pricey.  So this is something to work towards.

Solarize DelCo - the report recommends creating solarize Radnor, but we're better off working through Solarize Delco instead I think.  It notes that a few years ago there was a Solarize Greater Media program that seemed reasonably successful and worked more in the traditional solarize style that Bill's mentioned before.

There's a discussion of ordinances, such as encouraging net zero energy use for all new constructions.  There are ideas like a carbon fund, which is decreased if the developer makes energy improvements, thus incentivizing this while giving the township a carbon fund to plant trees and buy electric vehicles.  
Ex: <https://www.cityofwatsonville.org/DocumentCenter/View/196/Carbon-Fund-Ordinance-PDF>

There's a discussion of ordinances regarding permitting for electric vehicle chargers.  This seems like something reasonable, but I think Bob Lynn might know more about what we can do here.  It also mentions requiring or incentivizing electric vehicle parking in new developments. Here's an example ordinance I found, <https://www.sgrc.us/documents/ordinances/Model%20EV%20Infrastructure%20Ordinance.pdf>

It suggested using transit oriented design.  Nether Providence remains really unwalkable and while improving the sidewalk on Providence Rd. is great, there's a lot in the pedestrian and biking report that needs to be revisited.  The northern part of the township is served by the trolley and SEPTA lines, but the southern part is heavily car dependent.

Purchasing carbon offsets.  There's a discussion of carbon offsets in the report, but I've been hearing a lot about this topic lately that casts doubt on their efficacy.  I'd really rather us pursue more concrete work rather than spending township money to feel better about polluting.

Planting trees.  We should probably think about how we can accelerate the township's tree planting. It feels like, at least in my neighborhood, we're losing more trees than are being planted.

The report has a listing of rebate/incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements and clean transportation that could probably be turned into a resource for township residents.

There's no indication the report was paid for by a grant.  I mentioned that ICLEI has had a program to develop climate action plans, I think this is what we heard about at the EAC conference,

<https://icleiusa.org/climate-action-adaptation-planning-2020-cohort-training/>

But I'm not sure when another one will be.