EAC Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2020

Present: Bill Silverstein, Sam Flint, Paul Jacobs, Jason DeVries, Ken Rose, Jon Lichtenstein, Leo Stahl, Jane Miluski, and Dave Grady.

Membership Update: Mr. Silverstein noted that Gary Cummings is retiring, and Dave Grady is the new Township Manager. He said there were a few other changes, including Shelby Hancock, who moved and will no longer be on the Committee. Mr. Jacobs has been added as an ad-hoc member, and Mr. Rose was added as a full member. Mr. Stahl was in attendance and is anticipated to be added to the committee at the Board’s August 13th Commissioners meeting. Ms. Miluski attended as a visitor.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting were approved.

Recycling: Mr. Silverstein explained that the Township has a contract with B&L Disposal for collection of recycling, which is a one-year contract with an option year, and a contract with Republic for disposal of recycling for only one year. These are two separate contracts, and this is different than the Township’s long-standing practice of only having one contract. The contracts will be expiring at the end of the year. The Republic rate fluctuates, not to go above $95. There was discussion about the EAC’s objective in the discussion and the role of the committee. There also was discussion about the idea of a Township-wide trash hauler, instead of contracting privately. There are suspected benefits, including savings in terms of economies of scale, and there would be fewer trucks coming through the community. Mr. Flint noted that it could be seen as an increase in taxes, even if there are savings. Mr. Flint also suggested that the EAC’s role should not be to focus on the cost-accounting unless the cost savings can incentivize more recycling. Mr. Silverstein asked if an audit could be performed of a load to see how clean the Township’s recycling is, and Mr. Grady was going to investigate that. Mr. Grady mentioned that the Township may want to consider including yard waste disposal in a contract. Mr. Silverstein and Mr. Grady would try to determine what other communities are paying for yard waste. Ultimately, the group opted not to make a recommendation for trash and recycling during the meeting until more information was obtained.

Greenhouse Gas/Ready for 100: Mr. Silverstein noted that the Ready for 100 Resolution was finalized.

Multi-municipal Environmental Advisory Committee/Greenhouse Gas – He mentioned that the Township can begin looking for options to implement recommendations from the multi-municipal Greenhouse Gas Report. He said that the Township had followed other recommendations, including the installation of LED streetlights and traffic lights. There was discussion about reviewing the GHG numbers from the multi-municipal report from 2010, and since the Township composition has not changed drastically, the conclusions from the report probably are still relevant.

Mr. Silverstein said he receives a fair amount of communications from various environmental groups which have recommendations that may be valuable to the Township. The group could use some of these recommendations when looking for opportunities to find green solutions. Mr. Silverstein said that he would find a good way to distribute the information.

EV Charging Station: There was discussion about why the Township did not apply for the EV charger grant. The Township liked the idea, but there was no readily apparent place to put it. Mr. Silverstein said the grants are still out there, to his knowledge. Mr. Jacobs suggested locations, such as Pantry One and the Furness Library.

After discussion on schedule conflicts, the next meeting was set for Wednesday, August 26th at 7 PM.