EAC Meeting Minutes – November 23, 2020

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

Held Via Zoom Call

**Recycling Audit**

Mr. Grady said a recycling audit at the Republic recycling facility was scheduled for November 24th, and Ms. Miluski, Mr. Silverstein, and Mr. Rose were scheduled to attend.

**Community Solar – HB 531**

Mr. Silverstein said he noted he received an email from Mr. Grady regarding House Bill 531, which was for Community Solar. Mr. Grady said he had received several emails from residents in the Third Ward who were asking the Township to support House Bill 531. His understanding is that the bill would deregulate community solar, which is currently not permitted under the Pennsylvania public utilities laws. Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Silverstein noted that it would not be practical to build it in Nether Providence, but people could participate in it by becoming something like a “shareholder” with the project. He said it is regulated differently than a utility, and people could earn credits through the program. Mr. Jacobs noted the support for the bill appeared to be bipartisan. The group agreed that House Bill 531 seemed to make sense, but further research was needed to confirm.

**Solarize Delco**

Mr. Flint showed a flyer he received from Solarize Delco. He explained that he was interested in the program and said a few local EACs were interested as well. Ms. Miluski said this could be something to think about for the Public Works Garage. Mr. Silverstein said he believed the intent of the program was to remove the barriers for people who were interested but concerned about the legitimacy of the program. Mr. Devries said he has solar panels on his house, and he has been very satisfied. He said he would research the details of his house’s panels as they were installed prior to his purchase of the home. Mr. Jacobs said there are a few local communities that have achieved Bronze or Gold Status, which is through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

There was additional discussion about doing a solar project at the Township Garage. Mr. Silverstein said his understanding is there is a limit on how much energy can be generated, but it can be shared among buildings with the same ownership if they are within a certain distance of each other. For example, the Township Garage and Township Building could share the benefit. Mr. Flint asked Mr. Grady if the EAC’s role would be to investigate the program, and then make a recommendation, and the Township staff would implement the project. Mr. Grady confirmed that was the normal process.

Ms. Miluski said she thinks it would be advantageous for the EAC to begin educating the community on best practices for recycling. The group had discussion about single-stream recycling, and the future of it.

**GHG Report**

Mr. Rose asked everyone to review the Greenhouse Gas Summary and to think about projects in relation to it. The group discussed the relationship between the report and recycling, and Mr. Jacobs said the “reduce emissions from solid waste disposal” is at 2%, which is second from the bottom in the priorities list. Mr. Rose suggested having members of the EAC as representatives at other organizations’ meetings, such as the RF100, MMEAC, DVRPC, and Swarthmore College. Mr. Rose said to review the Google Document that Mr. Jacobs had created.

Mr. Rose suggested creating a list of topics for short articles that could be shared with Nether Providence residents through a newsletter, website, and social media. Mr. Rose also suggested focusing on a particular commissioner for that person’s feedback and direction.

Next meeting – the group determined the next meeting would be December 21st at 7:00 PM.