

**Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes - January 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
Forest Hills Borough Building**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: John Lawrence, Patricia D. Brown, Molly Mehling and guest, Mayor Marty O'Malley. Elizabeth Donohoe sent her regrets.

Corrections and Acceptance of Minutes

Accept revision to Dec. 2012 minutes to read: Molly Mehling, member, is not present. Acting-Secretary, Patricia Brown will check on her intentions for 2013 membership. The minutes were accepted and approved.

Election by Consensus: It was agreed that John (Jack) Lawrence will serve as Chair Patricia D. Brown as Secretary.

Reports of Committee Members

Updates on efforts to develop contacts on other Borough Committees and Council.

- Bird & Wildlife Committee and Council - Patricia contacted the Boro Office and was told by the secretary who began 6 months ago that the Bird and Wildlife Committee has been merged into the EAC. The only remaining name on the books is Elizabeth Hanzel and the phone number given, 412-371-4109 was incorrect. Jack will check with Steve to see if the committee is dissolved and if so, request the committee's working description. It was noted that this could bring member with this interest into the committee.
- Council Member, Devon Wood, was e-mailed twice by Patricia with an inability to response, owing to her heavy schedule.
- Tree & Shrub Committee - Jack Lawrence contacted Nina Sowiski, Chair. They are an active committee working with the FH Arborist. Patricia agreed to research into attending one of their meetings to get an understanding and scope of their work. The Committee does not post their minutes on the FH Website for public information. The member's names are not listed.
- Zoning Hearing Board and Board of Appeals (UCC - Building Code) - Elizabeth, via emails was in contact with Roseann, Admin. Assistant, and Steve Morus, Boro Manager, at the Boro. Office and requested contact information for the FH Zoning Board and Code Appeals Board members; names, email addresses. She explained that the intention is for the Environmental Advisory Committee to link up with other Borough Boards and committees.

Discussion and Decision on 2013 meeting dates

The committee is scheduled on the FH Calendar to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Steve Morus, Boro. Manager, requests these dates and times not be changed for 2013. Concern was raised by member, Molly Mehling, that an earlier day-time-hour would permit another woman with young children to join the committee.

The use of telephone conferencing (the use of the telephone) and Skype-ing (the use of the internet) was discussed and Jack Lawrence will check into these two possibilities for members who request this service in order to attend meetings long-distance.

Dates for 2013 meetings were set and approved: Jack Lawrence will determine if a meeting is needed in February. If there are no actions needed by the EAC, Lawrence will inform committee members, and also request the Boro. Office to place a cancellation sign on the door for the general public.

Mayor Marty O' Malley, guest to the committee, said there could be movement to buy and renovate on the property at the corner of Ardmore and Braddock that would enlist the EAC. This would warrant a meeting.

Flood and Storm Water Management

Jack Lawrence discussed upcoming 2013 business with Boro. Manager, Steve Morus. Mayor Marty O'Malley explained that residential flooding is a concern. It is understood that the EAC would benefit from a presentation on the storm water issue by Glen Engineering Company. This could be scheduled Spring 2013.

On-Going and New Research

Chair, Jack Lawrence stated that he is researching EAC activity in other Eastern PA municipalities. He will report his findings to the committee.

Molly Mehling stated her interest in bringing information to the committee from the *Sustainable Cities Network* and how students might engage in proactive sustainability activities, research and projects. Mehling also agreed to review GIS maps of the FH region and bring informational findings to the committee at a summer meeting.

Public Information - Website and Tree City Times

Patricia Brown, Secretary, noted that the minutes of the December 2012 meeting had been posted for the public on the website. Missing from the web site are the EAC member names, and the calendar does not post the meeting dates. Jack Lawrence will check into these concerns.

An article about the scope of the work of the EAC was submitted and accepted to be published in the Spring 2013 FH Tree City Times. Once published it will be sent by Patricia to the Patch on-line paper.

Patricia proposed a second article for Tree City Times for the 2013 summer issue. Each member is asked to send a short biographical statement and a paragraph or two as to why they decided to serve on the EAC committee. A photo is also requested. This article would be geared to attract other members to serve and work with the committee.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Patricia D. Brown, Secretary