

## Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2023

### ABSENT

**Ashley Gagné** *Township Supervisor*  
**Chris Bashore** *Township Manager*  
**Natalie Caruso** *Member*  
**Melanie Vile** *Vice Chair*

### PRESENT

**Henry Alexander** *Chair*  
**Dorothy Verdon** *Secretary*  
**Susan Charkes** *Member*  
**Scott DeLone** *Member*  
**Barbara Rinehart** *Member*  
**Tinamarie Smith** *Township Supervisor*  
**Shaun Walsh** *Township Supervisor (new  
business portion)*

The monthly meeting of the West Goshen Township (WGT) Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) convened virtually via GoToMeeting and was called to order by Chair Henry Alexander (HA) at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

### 1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dorothy Verdon (DV) and seconded by Susan Charkes (SC) to approve the April 25, 2023, meeting minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### 2. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Consideration of a Solar Array on Building D of the Municipal Complex

Steve Crimmel from Solar Renewable Energy (SRE) presented a proposal to install 267 kilowatts of solar collectors on Building D in the township municipal complex and presented a slide deck containing information regarding the company, their past projects, and the proposed installation of a solar array. SRE installs a number of types of solar arrays mostly in the mid-size range and mostly to non-profits; they are an SREC aggregator and they purchase SRECs for sale to electricity generators; and they coordinate the construction and financing of solar projects. SRE offers a Purchase Service Agreement (PSA), in which the customer purchases the power from the array which is owned by an investment group. It also offers a direct purchase option in which the customer purchases the solar system at time of installation. A third alternative is to start with a PSA for the first five years and to purchase the system at the beginning of the sixth year. After the presentation, the SAC asked numerous questions. When Steve Crimmel left the meeting, the SAC considered next steps. HA moved and SD seconded sending the proposal to the BoS for their consideration. The motion was passed unanimously.

### 3. ONGOING BUSINESS

#### A. Trees

**1. West Goshen Township Tree Cover.** Melanie Vile (MV) has been on a research trip and has been unable to complete the Tree Cover Study. She intends to complete it in time for presentation to Parks and Recreation in June.

**2. 2023 Tree Plan.** SC proceeded with the preparation of a draft tree plan to comply with the requirements of the Tree City certification process and the township ordinance. She used the provisional results of the tree cover study and, with the input of Eunice Alexander, developed a draft tree plan. In 2023, the proposed plan would concentrate on Hamlet Crest Park and Coppersmith Park, in an effort to achieve 40% coverage in these two parks. A copy of this plan was provided to the SAC members prior to this meeting and SC requested our comment on the plan and guidance concerning the way forward. She felt that it would require input from Parks and

Recreation, the Planning Board, and township staff. However, she differentiated between a tree plan and the larger effort of developing overall plans for the park system. The SAC members had no suggested changes to the plan. It was the consensus of the SAC to empower SC to present the plan to Parks & Recreation at the June meeting for their review and comment.

- 3. Further Work on Weeping Beech.** SC received a set of three proposals from Bartlett Tree Experts to conduct pruning and care of the weeping beech over three consecutive years: 2023, 2024, and 2025. She e-mailed the three proposals to the SAC members. As she received the proposal just before the meeting, she has not had a chance to review them. HA said that this raised the question of whether it should be done incrementally or spaced out over three years. If the work was done all at one time, it would require competitive bidding. SC said that according to Harvey Lerman from Bartlett, the work could be done incrementally. HA recommended that further study is needed and that the SAC should put off further consideration until next meeting.
- B. Report on Arbor Day: Hamlet Crest Park Reforestation and Naturalization and Follow-up.** HA said that the Hamlet Crest was a success and thanked Barbara Rinehart (BR) for her leadership in the project and Scott DeLone (SD) for getting the volunteers for the tree planting. BR recommended that the two subsequent plantings of trees and shrubs should take place this fall and next spring, respectively, and that the SAC should start planning for the fall planting at this time. It would consist of planting 100 trees and shrubs. There was considerable discussion on how this could be done. The most pressing issue was that the plants need to be ordered in early June, so the SAC would need to decide at this meeting whether to do the fall planting. SC proposed and BR seconded a motion to proceed with the fall planting. The motion was approved unanimously. BR and SD volunteered to coordinate the effort.
- C. Barker Park Larvicide Treatment.** Ashley Gagné (AG) will be contacting the Chester County Board of Health contact regarding larvicide treatment of the abandoned swimming pool adjacent to Barker Park. She will report her findings at the next meeting.
- D. May SAC Newsletter.** DV said that the big story for the May edition of the newsletter will be the Tree Coverage Study report.
- E. EV Charging Units: Incorporation into Land Development Ordinances.** The SAC discussed the Phoenixville ordinance requiring EV charging capability be incorporated into any new construction of parking or residential or commercial developments. AG stated that the BoS is interested in the SAC investigating the adoption of a similar ordinance in the township. HA stated that he did not think that the SAC currently has the knowledge to write such an ordinance but that he would look into the subject and report back to the SAC at the next meeting. AG said that she would do the same. It would be helpful to check on similar ordinances in Philadelphia and municipalities in California and other places that are farther along in the transition to EVs.
- F. EV Charging Project Construction.** HA said that Chris Bashore (CB) indicated that Carroll Engineering and Keystone are finalizing the construction plans for the EV charging system and that the township intends to move forward with the construction upon completion and approval of the plans.
- G. Discussion of Homegrown National Park Concept.** BR said that she placed the 75 remaining brochures on the Homegrown National Park concept in the racks in the township building. She will investigate

how signs could be made available for the Hamlet Crest planting and to homeowners who wish to be part of the effort.

- H. Pedestrian Improvements and New Street/Route 322 Intersection:** HA said that he had called PennDOT Region 6 regarding pedestrian access to crossing at the Route 322/New Street intersection and has not heard anything back. SC recommended that we follow up and Tina Smith (TS) recommended that we e-mail CB and ask him to set up a meeting with PennDot to discuss the issue of pedestrian access at the intersection. SC will e-mail CB and HA will follow up.
- I. Regulation of Application of Lawn Chemicals to Private Properties:** HA indicated that the township authority is limited and that the PA Department of Agriculture has authority in this area. But at the April meeting Richard Cahoone requested that we study the chemicals and that we advertise the availability of hypersensitivity list for those who are hypersensitive to lawn chemicals. HA and SC will look into these actions in the coming month.
- J. Township Control of Bamboo:** SC reported that she had checked on how the bamboo ordinance is enforced. Township engineer Brian Kulakowsky told her that it is enforced when a resident notifies the township of a violation. SC recommended that we inspect the private property within 40 feet of roads of the township and report violations seen. SC also reviewed Radnor Township's ordinance which is stricter. TS recommended that we e-mail Dave Woodward with a copy to CB requesting that he let us know if he knows of, or sees any, stand of bamboo within 40 feet of a public roadway.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**5. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by DV and seconded by BR to adjourn. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted on June 6, 2023, by Henry Alexander, Chair, SAC.