



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS
Josh Maxwell
Marian D. Moskowitz
Eric M. Roe

Brian N. O’Leary, AICP
Executive Director

PLANNING COMMISSION
Government Services Center, Suite 270
601 Westtown Road
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West Chester, PA 19380-0990
(610) 344-6285 Fax (610) 344-6515

Chester County Environmental and
Energy Advisory Board

Hybrid Meeting – GSC Suite 351E/Zoom
Government Services Center
January 24, 2024

AGENDA

2:30 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome and Introduction of New Members
Madhu Gurthy, Citizen Representative
Kelsey Boyd, Conservancy Representative

Paul Spiegel, Vice Chair

2:35 p.m. 2. ACTION ITEM

- A. Appointment of 2024 Officers
- B. Adoption of October 25, 2023 Minutes

Nominating Committee
EEAB Chair

2:45 p.m. 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. EEAB Subcommittee Reports
 - 1) Environmental Subcommittee
 - 2) Clean Energy Subcommittee
 - i. Solar Adopters Conference Recap
- B. Update on Sustainable Energy Partnership Energy Board
- C. Sustainable practices for HOAs project discussion

Seung Ah Byun, Subcommittee Chair
Jim Wylie, Subcommittee Chair

Rachael Griffith
Rachael Griffith

3:30 p.m. 4. UPDATES AND COMMENTS

- A. Updates from the Board – PECO
- B. Other Updates from the Board
- C. Planning Commission Director’s Report
- D. Sustainability Director’s Report
- E. Facilities Director’s Report
- F. Public Comment

Britnee Sanseverino
Board Members
Brian O’Leary
Rachael Griffith
George Martynick

4:00 p.m. 5. ADJOURNMENT

Next quarterly meeting – April 24th, 2024

Attachments:

Draft October 25, 2023 Minutes



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Michelle Kichline

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Environmental and Energy Advisory Board
Government Services Center Suite 351W/Zoom

October 25, 2023
Hybrid meeting

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Vice Chair; Brian O'Leary, Secretary; David Busch; Seung Ah Byun; Carol DeWolf; George Martynick; Wyatt Williams.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Mark Connolly; Karena DiLeo; Joseph DiRocco; Steve Krug; Warren W. (Bill) Messerschmidt; Rachel Roberts; Britnee Sanseverino; Sarah Sharp; Dave Stauffer; Chris Strohmaier; Dave Stauffer; Kevin Warren; Jim Wylie.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Rachael Griffith, Gene Huller, Kate Hutelmyer, Carol Stauffer, Sally Warren.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Kirk Reinbold; Richard Whiteford.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center Suite 351W and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, was called to order at 2:30 P.M. by Vice Chair Paul Spiegel.

Two new board members were welcomed and introduced themselves: 1) Ex-Officio member - George Martynick, Acting Director of Chester County Facilities Department and 2) Britnee Sanseverino, PECO Energy Corporation's External Affairs Manager for Chester and York Counties, who is filling a board seat designated for a utility representative.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of July 26, 2023 Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 26, 2023 MEETING WAS MADE BY MS. DEWOLF, SECONDED BY MR. BUSCH, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Adoption of 2024 Meeting Dates:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 EEAB MEETING DATES WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MR. DIROCCO, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Appointment of Nominating Committee:

A MOTION TO RE-APPOINT THE EXISTING NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024, CONSISTING OF MR. KRUG, MS. DE WOLF AND MS. BYUN WAS MADE BY MR. O'LEARY, SECONDED BY MR. WILLIAMS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Subcommittee Reports.

Environmental Subcommittee:

Ms. Byun shared that the Environmental Subcommittee met on 10/24/23 and discussed potential roles for the committee. One potential role is for members to serve as informational resources to Chester County departments. She added that the subcommittee could potentially take on its own initiatives in conjunction with county staff, such as:

- 1) reforestation/tree planting guidance;
- 2) applying for umbrella grants on environmental issues so that each municipality or individual entity would not have to apply individually;
- 3) providing outreach/education to the municipal Environmental Advisory Committees (EACs) to provide them advice as needed; and
- 4) identifying and incorporating environmental justice tools into the work of this subcommittee.

Clean Energy Subcommittee:

Mr. Wylie stated that the subcommittee has been planning a Solar Adopters Conference which is targeted for big energy users, like large businesses and non-profits (schools/universities). The goal is to secure more co-hosts, who are asked to help promote the conference. He reviewed a draft list of presentation topics that include:

- 1) State of Solar Energy in PA and Chester County;
- 2) Site Assessments;
- 3) Grid Connection Considerations;
- 4) Federal Financial Incentives; and
- 5) Energy Storage and Micro-Grids.

PECO is a confirmed sponsor. The proposed date is Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the Nth Innovation Hub in Coatesville. The board discussed the need to include more “demand-side” content, including success stories from existing solar adopters.

Ms. Griffith provided an update on the Local Government Climate Action Team’s initiative to develop guidance for municipalities on how ordinances can promote energy efficiency and renewable energy and provided an update on the county’s SolSmart designation process.

The Clean Energy Subcommittee meets the 3rd Wednesday at 4 pm. Any board member is welcome to attend. New board member, Ms. Sanseverino, expressed interest in joining this subcommittee.

Regional Initiatives Updates

Ms. Griffith provided updates on several energy-related regional initiatives being led by DVRPC. Ms. Griffith stated that the Chester County Commissioners signed an MOU with Delaware, Montgomery, and Bucks Counties to form an electricity purchasing consortium called the Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeast PA. An Energy Board will be appointed that will work closely with a consultant to actively manage the energy portfolio. She also shared brief updates on DVRPC’s Regional Energy Benchmarking Program, a Priority Climate Action Plan for the Philadelphia Metropolitan Statistical Area funded through an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, and a grant from the National Renewable Energy Lab to create a Regional Clean Energy Activation Hub.

Advancing Sustainability in the Agricultural Sector

Ms. Griffith introduced an upcoming project to convene various experts (Conservation District, Water Resources, etc.) to determine how the county can help advance sustainability in the agricultural sector. Board members expressed support for the idea and offered additional contacts.

UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

Updates from the Board

Ms. Byun gave an update for the Chester County Water Resources Authority as part of the board round robin updates that will be featured at this board meeting going forward. The Draft Watersheds 2045 update is in the public comment phase until November 17, 2023. The Commissioners will make a final adoption of the plan at their December 2023 meeting. Other programs they are working on include: stormwater management model ordinance; county MS4 program; municipal assistance, such as a lawn-to-meadow workshop; county-wide water monitoring program to help identify flooding and drought areas; rehab project for Beaver Creek Dam; and working with the University of Delaware and Brandywine Conservancy to prepare a Brandywine Creek Flood Study.

Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Martynick reported he has been in the Acting Director position for 5 weeks. Facilities is continuing with EV charging stations for the county fleet. The public EV charging stations are in the Penn DOT/DVRPC approval stage and it is estimated there will be 25 total. They are looking at efficiencies of the county's mechanical/HVAC equipment to develop an energy use plan of action.

Planning Commission Director's Report

Mr. O'Leary added the Planning Commission received an Open Space Planning Program award from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association at their 2023 Annual Conference.

Sustainability Director's Report

Ms. Griffith thanked the board for its participation and outreach to help make the first Sustainability Summit such a success. The event survey revealed that attendees enjoyed the speakers and the networking, although some wanted to see more specific advice for specific sectors, like municipalities and schools.

Board Updates

Mr. Wylie suggested that at the January 2024 board meeting, we have an update on the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs and how that U.S. Department of Energy program will impact Chester County.

Mr. Krug reported that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Climate Change Advisory Committee has proposed changes to the state Municipalities Planning Code to account for climate change impacts and ideas for policy changes.

Public Comments

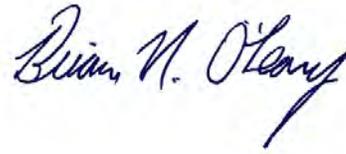
Richard Whitford asked why Vanguard Investments was not mentioned during the discussion of identifying large energy users for the Solar Adopters Conference. He also asked if there was a program to train or advise local developers to build-in solar power at the beginning of construction. Mr. Krug said there are energy code training sessions regularly offered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The next quarterly meeting will be on January 24, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 4:20 PM. WAS MADE BY MR. O'LEARY SECONDED BY MR. KRUG AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian N. O'Leary". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Brian N. O'Leary, AICP
Secretary

BNO/CJS/RG/saw