



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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PLANNING COMMISSION
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Environmental and Energy Advisory Board
Government Services Center Suite 270/Zoom

January 22, 2025
Hybrid meeting

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair; Carol DeWolf, Vice-Chair; Carol J. Stauffer, Acting Secretary; Seung Ah Byun; Steve Krug; George Martynick; Britnee Sanseverino; Dave Stauffer.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Kelsey Boyd; Mark Connolly; Madhu Gurthy; Rachel Roberts; Sarah Sharp; Wyatt Williams.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Rachael Griffith; Gene Huller; Kate Hutelmyer; Patti Quinn; Brian Styche; Alex Sankaran; Sally Warren.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: John McHugh; Ryan Mawhinney

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center in Suite 270 and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, was called to order at 2:30 P.M. by Chair, Paul Spiegel.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Spiegel thanked past members for their service to the board while their terms had expired at the end of 2024: Jim Wylie, Citizen representative, and Joseph DiRocco, Municipal Manager's Consortium representative, creating two vacancies on this board. He acknowledged the following board members who applied and were appointed for new terms: Steve Krug, Rachel Roberts and Wyatt Williams.

Appointment of 2025 Officers

MR. KRUG, ON BEHALF OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF CAROL DEWOLF, STEVE KRUG, AND SEUNG AH BYUN, MADE A MOTION TO NOMINATE: PAUL SPEIGEL AS CHAIR AND CAROL DE WOLF, AS VICE-CHAIR, SECONDED BY MS. BOYD AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Appointment of Secretary

A MOTION TO NOMINATE AND APPOINT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS SECRETARY, (CURRENTLY CAROL STAUFFER IS ACTING SECRETARY, BUT NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL ASSUME THIS ROLE WHEN HIRED) WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG AND SECONDED BY MS. BYUN AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of October 23, 2024, Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 23, 2024, MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. SANSEVERINO, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Subcommittee Reports

Environmental Subcommittee: Ms. Griffith recapped a meeting held on 1/14/25 to convene the Environmental Advisory Committees (EACs) active EACs throughout the county.

Ms. Byun reported the [Brandywine Flood Study Draft - Public Comment Period](#) is open now for 45 days, until March 1, 2025. She also noted that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has released the MS4 [Draft PAG-13](#) General Permit, for 60-day public comment period starting Jan 18, 2025. The Water Resources Authority of Chester County will be reviewing the draft permit to develop questions and to make advisory comments.

Clean Energy Subcommittee: Mr. Krug reported on the PA DEP's new Solar for Schools funding program with an application deadline of Jan 31, 2025. Several Chester County school districts are planning to apply, including Phoenixville, Octorara, Unionville/Chadds Ford and West Chester School District. Ms. Roberts added that the [Dockstader Foundation](#) may be able to fund matching grant funds for schools in southern Chester County.

Mr. Krug added the subcommittee would like to develop a County Energy Strategy that would prepare the County to address nationwide capacity constraints, increased demand, and climate change. The Board authorized the subcommittee to flesh out the proposal further and present it at the next board meeting.

Ms. Griffith described a workshop held for municipal managers, staff and elected officials in January 2025 to review a draft ordinance toolkit on regulating and incentivizing energy efficiency, electrification and renewables. Toolkit is expected to be available in March 2025. Ms. De Wolf added that CCATO (Chester County Association of Township Officials) could help offer educational seminars that further the work of the Municipal Cohort.

Update on Sustainability Summit for 2025 - Ms. Griffith presented an overview of the summit idea, proposed for a Saturday mid-day in the Spring as a county-wide event geared toward the general public.

Presentation:

Bryan Styche, the Planning Commission's Multimodal Transportation Division Director, presented an overview of the Chester County Transportation Improvement Inventory (TII) and Transportation Priority Projects (TPP) planning efforts. He introduced two staff who work on these projects, Patty Quinn and Alex Sankaran. More information on both topics may be found at the following links:

- [Transportation Improvement Inventory \(TII\)](#)
- [Transportation Priority Projects](#)

UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

Department Updates Document – The board packet for this meeting included an update on environmental and energy actions being implemented across County departments represented on the Board.

Planning Commission Director's Report – Carol Stauffer, Acting Executive Director reported the County will be announcing the new Executive Director in the next week.

Sustainability Director's Report - Ms. Griffith reported that CCPC has drafted a native tree list, which is out for comments. She also reported the award of a PA-DCNR grant for the County to offer an "Open Space Accelerator" mini-grant program that will provide small grants to

municipalities to implement their open space goals. The county did not win a grant from USDA to collect food scraps for composting.

Facilities Director's Report

Mr. Martynick reported a solar RFP is going out soon for 313 W. Market Street. The new Coroner's Facility is being planned and the goal is to meet LEED Silver green building standards. He added that the County is assessing what to do with its vacant office space, which amounts to close to 130,000 square feet. Three of the four planned fleet EV chargers are installed. Design for 14 public EV chargers is 90 percent complete with installation expected for the spring.

Updates from the Board

There were no updates from the board.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The next quarterly meeting will be on April 23, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 4:30 PM. WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG AND SECONDED BY MS. BYUN, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol J. Stauffer, AICP
Acting Secretary

CJS/RG/saw