

**EAC Attendees -- Tinku Khanwalkar, Jennifer Swann, Dave Melman, Liz Hunt**

**Non-EAC Attendees – Ann Saurman, Manager –Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste, City of Allentown**

**1. Minutes were duly approved.**

**2. Impacts to Allentown of China's changes in its recycling policy**

Presentation given by Ann Saurman, Manager – Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste, City of Allentown, based on materials developed by the National Waste and Recycling Association.

- China has significantly tightened the maximum levels of contamination it will accept in recyclable materials. The acceptable contamination level used to be less than 5% and it must be less than 0.5%. This has significantly reduced the amount of recyclable materials China imports because it is very difficult to meet that requirement. As a result, materials have been rejected causing a reduced value of the materials and increased the cost to process the recyclables. Starting in 2021 China will accept no recyclable materials requiring any processing.
- This is a global issue.
- Allentown performed an audit of the City's recycling stream which showed that 9.52% of the stream is trash residue. This is significantly less than the national averages which range from 25% to 40% contamination in the recycling stream.
- The current trash fee for Allentown residents is \$375 per residential unit. This includes trash, yard waste and recycling collection.
- The City has a contract with J.P. Mascaro & Sons for the acceptance, processing and recycling of the City's materials. This is a shared risk contract which means both parties share the revenue when the value of the recyclables are higher than the processing costs and both parties share in the costs when the value of the recyclables are less than the processing costs.
- More citizen education is needed to keep items such as plastic bags, hoses, lithium batteries and trash out of the recycling stream. The motto is, "When in doubt, throw it out". The suggestion was made that the EAC meet with Kristin Baringer, Education Manager and Ann Saurman to discuss publicizing important information about the Allentown recycling program.

**3. Report on Public Works**

- a. Joe will need to provide update at next meeting.
- b. Tinku asked whether the information she received on the City's use of chemicals to eliminate tree roots from drainage pipes should be included in the EAC's web page or on Facebook. Liz suggested that there are many other things that have a higher priority for public education. Others agreed with this assessment.

**4. Report on Parks and Recreation - Joe was not present** We will need updates for these items next week.

**5. Report on Planning Commission – Joe was not present** We will need updates for these items next week.

**6. Green drinks** – Event flier is done. Jill has a 'save the date' flier.

Action item – Tinku to confirm with sustainability network that the flier is OK, and to confirm which sponsors need to be included. Also, do we need confirmation that we can use the city seal on the flier?

- Additional information
  - Mike Gibson – is coming, confirmed by Tinku

- Representative Peter Schweyer was contacted by Dave Melman. He is excited about the event. He is also ready to meet with us to describe what he is doing with the sustainable energy fund and will come to Green drinks to discuss whatever we want him to
- Representative Schlossberg has not returned calls to Dave
- Sustainability energy fund – Dave called Kristen send to see if they will send a representative
- Kerry Reider – new water quality manager starting in September – Joe Hoffman can reach out to him when he meets with Public Works

#### **7. Iron Pigs program**

Sunday afternoon on the 26<sup>th</sup>. – Still need to know the cost. Liz will notify the group about details and which EAC members will attend. We need fliers etc. to hand out and people to man a table. Liz will stop in at city hall next week to collect materials.

**8. EAC web page-** Liz and Tinku will contact Jill Trznadel about a meeting to revamp the EAC website.

**9. South mountain parcel - Joe was not present.** We will need updates for these items next week.

#### **10. Solarize Lehigh Valley –**

Dave has drafted a resolution (to generate conversation around the need for more solar). If a resolution is passed it will increase interest. **Dave will email around for comments.** Then we will take it to the city council as a group. Dave explained that Brian Hillard of the Bethlehem EAC is part of the sustainable energy fund. Sustainable energy fund gives loans to both non-profits and for-profits to increase sustainability in the valley. Also include loans to make homes more sustainable.

#### **11. Change in the EAC meeting location.**

Dave has contacted the Muhlenberg College to use their space – the worry is the size of the room. The public is welcome – the meetings are open. Fear is that the students might drop by and the room might be too small.

12. There was discussion about Korbin Price's continued effort to join the Allentown EAC. It's unclear if Corbin is in Allentown or not due to his address.

13. Tinku noted the importance of attendance at EAC meetings to avoid quorum issues. The Bylaws allow for removal of any member who misses 3 or more in a row without cause.

The meeting was adjourned.