

**EGT Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Council Meeting**

**Monday, March 25, 2024 6:30 PM**

**DRAFT**

Attendees: Christi Marshall, Kennan Flanagan, Peg Friese, Mary Krueger, Christine McCormick, Kimberly Schaffer, Tony Natale, Barbara Emery (Board Liaison)

1. Call to Order 6:30 PM by Christi Marshall
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Christine McCormick
3. Moment of Silence was led by Christine McCormick
4. No one was recording the meeting.
5. Christi Marshall led an administrative discussion regarding meeting schedules. Meetings will be held on Mondays at 6:30PM. However, the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting is Memorial Day and will be held on Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>. Christi will check to determine if there is a fee to publish the change prior to the meeting.
6. Christi Marshall led discussion regarding committees. She suggested the following committee approach. Establish a Social Media Committee to replace the Media Committee. Add a Communications Committee. Divide the Programs Committee into an Events Committee and a Workshop Committee. There may possibly be a Clean Energy Committee but will defer to a future meeting. Limit Council member participation to no more than three on any committee. Committees would work on projects outside of the Council meetings and make presentations on progress during the council meetings. Committees make no decisions on their own and would get Council approvals at Council meetings. Council members were unanimous in their agreement on the approach.
7. Secretary Minutes Report. Tony Natale made a motion to approve the minutes that were previously provided covering the meetings on November 27, 2023, and February 26, 2024. Minutes were unanimously approved.

8. Barbara Emery reported that the Board of Supervisors met and unanimously approved the use of the letter to businesses regarding the Board resolution on single use plastic bags, straws, and Styrofoam containers. Their only concern was whether the email address was correct, and it was. The Board of Supervisors will not meet on April 2, 2024.

9. Treasurer's Report. Mary Krueger provided information that ESAC received \$3,000 in 2023. Thus far, only \$103 for stickers for the plastics resolution communication has been spent. For 2024, no itemization of expenses will be needed.

10. Committee Reports:

- Media/Social Media Report. Mary Krueger provided an update. A committee meeting is scheduled for March 26. The committee includes Juliette Kalman, WCE students and Peg Friese.
- Native Plant Committee. Peg Fries provided an update. Tony Natale and Denise Royle are members of the committee. The EGT Building project is in a holding pattern awaiting plan drawings from Derek Davis. These plans will provide knowledge of where utility lines are running. Peg checked the water flow this past week. She is waiting for plugs from Xerces. She has also identified that Northcreek Nurseries in Lancaster is a wholesale plug supplier. However, they have a requirement to spend \$100 on the first order. Christine McCormick offered to assist as she and Hershey's Mill Nature Group are already qualified at Northcreek. Peg made a motion to spend \$100 on native plants which was seconded by Christine and passed unanimously.
- Multi-family Dwelling Committee. Mary Krueger went to the apartment complex in EGT and focused on New Kent. They do not have many events. ESAC may bring boards with information and leave these in the lobby for residents to read with information on recycling, balcony gardens, electricity conservation. They have an email list and can send out information that we provide about Earth Day. Mary has drafted an email for review. The email will go to the Communications

Committee for review and comment, and then sent to the Township Manager for approval.

- Programs Committee. Christi Marshall discussed EGT Earth Day April 20 participation. The event, Keep EG Beautiful, is sponsored by the Conservancy Council. ESAC can participate as individuals or as a group. We can take an area to clean up for anywhere from one to three hours. We will receive red vests and gloves for safety. Discussion was had on purchasing shirts and/or hats for ESAC. Kim Schaffer will investigate further. We could focus on the path near the Wawa and meet at 7:55AM. Volunteers for the event included: Kim Schaffer, Christi Marshall, Christine McCormick, Kennan Flanagan, and Tony Natale.

11. Christi Marshall led a discussion on communicating the approved letter regarding the resolution that was passed by the Board of Supervisors on single use plastic bags, straws, and Styrofoam containers. There are approximately 45 businesses that will need to receive the letter to be hand-delivered. Three businesses would be handled separately because of their size including Giant, Wawa, and CVS. Kennan Flanagan requested that the larger businesses be asked to track the inventory of plastic bags. This would give a sense of whether the resolution is working and reducing the amount of single use plastic. Tony Natale made a motion to distribute during the next month the letter along with window stickers and a cloth bag that was designed by WCE students. Kennan Flanagan seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

12. Christi Marshall made a motion to establish a business outreach task force to support the distribution of plasticsresolution materials. She will establish a sign-up list for Council members to identify the businesses that they will contact. A copy of the EGT Newsletter could also be added to the bag. Discussion was also had on recognizing businesses who are voluntarily taking sustainable actions. This recognition could be in the newsletter.

13. Mary Krueger identified that resident communication needs to be addressed. The draft letter to New Kent residents is a starting point. Christi Marshall recommended deferring resident communications to the Communications Committee.

14. Kennan Flanagan discussed that other EGT Councils have environmental issues that they are addressing. He suggested that we focus more on the environmental aspects of the ESAC mission and perform an assessment of EGT. Identify what needs to change, if anything, with regards to clean air, water, land, and diversity of wildlife. Christi Marshall suggested revisiting a five-year plan and placing it on the next meeting's agenda.

15. Adjourned Meeting: Tony Natale made a motion to adjourn at 8:20PM, seconded by Kennan Flanagan and passed unanimously.