

**WEST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 7, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Public Services Commission regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. The meeting was open to the public, and a link to join the meeting via Zoom was listed on the agenda posted on the Township's website.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brian Dakin  
Kevin Moore  
Janice Gottesfeld  
Lee Ann Embrey

Rob Hall  
Liz Alakszay

**TOWNSHIP STAFF**

Pam Gural-Bear, Assistant Township Manager  
Ed Culp, Assistant Director of Public Works  
Ted Otteni, Township Engineer

Brian Dunn, Board of Supervisors Liaison

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**MINUTES:**

With Kevin Moore absent from the August 3, 2022, meeting, it was decided that Ed Culp would sign the minutes as the recording secretary.

Ms. Alakszay made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hall to approve the August 3, 2022, minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. Gural-Bear announced that resident Virginia Kerlake was in attendance and is interested in volunteering on one the Township Commissions.

The Total Recycle tour has been scheduled for September 29 at 10:30. There are still a few spots left. If anyone is interested in attending, they should contact Pam.

Budget presentations will begin before the Board of Supervisors at the September 14, 2022, meeting.

Ms. Gural-Bear announced that the Township was recently awarded a DCNR grant in the amount of \$600,000 for Exton Park improvements, primarily in the multi-use fields area to include a second restroom, asphalt trail connections, pavilion, and additional parking and landscaping.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

## 1. Sustainability Initiatives

Wyatt Williams, the Township's new Sustainability Coordinator, gave a presentation of possible initiatives being considered to support the Township's sustainability goals. Three main areas were community engagement, energy, and waste.

**Community engagement:** Development of a community garden was discussed. Mr. Williams noted the first step is to gauge the amount of interest by reaching out to schools, garden clubs, etc. Ms. Gottesfeld suggested reaching out to the apartment complexes in the area who have limited access to green space. Once participating parties are identified, the main intent of the garden can be determined – to educate, provide healthy food, or both. Size and location of properties was discussed including the Township building, various Township parks, and the need to be close to a water source. Ms. Alakszay suggested reaching out to organizations such as Church Farm School and St. Paul's Episcopal Church that may provide assistance as they operate successful gardens. She further explained that success depends on having someone in the community take ownership and provide leadership for the project.

**Waste:** Mr. Williams advised that composting can greatly reduce the amount of food that currently goes into landfills. Back to Earth is a local business that will compost material for a charge of \$20/month. It was suggested that having a composting bin at the community garden would be a convenient way for those who don't have room for a composting site.

Mr. Williams then reviewed various plastic ordinances noting that a proposed ordinance can be tailored to meet the community needs and desires – banning plastic bags, straws, takeout containers, etc. Various exemptions and enforcement practices were reviewed, and Mr. Williams presented a chart with ordinance highlights from various municipalities in SE Pennsylvania.

**Energy:** The Township, as a part of the West Chester Area Council of Governments, has adopted "Ready For 100" and supports the goals of 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy by 2050. Mr. Williams has begun "energy benchmarking" for Township properties – tracking energy use over time to pinpoint inefficiencies. Solar installations for the Township building and Boot Road House were discussed. Mr. Dakin encouraged members to think about the possibility of using the Boot Road House as a "lead by example" project and to show the community the Township's commitment to clean energy.

Data for the EV charging stations shows more are warranted. Mr. Williams said there has recently been an issue with idle charging and suggested adding a price bump after the initial charging period to fix this issue and discourage people from leaving their vehicles after charging has completed.

Mr. Williams advised that the Township's current energy contract is not up until the end of 2023, and the Township currently has a very good rate per kilowatt hour but does not have the ability to choose the source. He explained that the cost of clean energy will be more economical in the future as the infrastructure for it is completed.

Geothermal and wind were discussed as possibilities. Mr. Williams noted that geothermal can be difficult in some areas of the Township but admitted it could be explored further.

Mr. Otteni said the new Public Works facility had to forego solar at this time due to construction costs but added that it could be added in the future and utilities are being roughed in to accommodate solar in the future.

Other ideas suggested for future consideration included:

- discouraging new developments from using fossil fuel appliances
- adopt an ordinance for new construction to use electric only
- increase tree planting in new construction
- include composting information with the recycling information on the website
- target businesses with information on different models of EV charger (restaurants, 1 hour chargers; movie theaters, 3-4 hour chargers)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Hall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting; the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Moore  
Recording Secretary