

AGENDA

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Thursday May 9, 2019 6:30PM 401 E Gay St, West Chester

Committee Members:

Barbara Clarke, Lester Silberman, Ashie Delshad, Connie McEvoy, Rachel Davis, Jane Clark, Jim Wylie Committee

Alternates: Christiane Iwert-Torres, Gillian Fitzpatrick

Borough Staff Liaison: Kevin Gore, Director of Building, Housing, and Code Enforcement

Present: Barbara Clarke, Lester Silberman, Ashie Delshad, Connie McEvoy, Rachel Davis, Jane Clark, Jim Wylie,
Christiane Iwert-Torres, Gillian Fitzpatrick

Community member: Helen "Holly" Alden

6:32 Meeting called to order by Chair Barbara Clarke

I. Comments, suggestions, petitions by residents in attendance regarding items not on the agenda: **NONE** (6:30-6:35pm)

II. Approved April 2019 minutes. (6:35 pm)

III. Sustainability Director for the Borough of West Chester – William Williams (6:35-6:40pm)

Mr. Williams may attend the June SAC meeting

BC: New Director will know if there are funds budgeted for SAC/Sustainability initiatives

IV. Bike Boulevard Trial (6:45-7:00pm)

- JW; Together with Brad Flamm, WCU Sustainability Director plans are being prepared to propose a bike route through the borough. (share-the-road type bike path) A trial period shall be implemented to see about feasibility
- Role of SAC? -- To be a champion, advocate for such initiatives
- BC: College students are out-of-towners so need guidance about safe bike routes
- CIT – hard to find bike racks; JW – there are a few but not enough and old 'dead spaces' now are outdoor restaurant seating
- Idea to chalk out a loop and promote to mostly college students—see how it goes and then decide about permanent – AD: why do temporary – lots of effort; Jim: maybe could be permanent;
- JW: Will draft an approval letter to Public Works proposing a Bike Boulevard Loop for Sep

V. News Letter ideas (7:05pm)

- JW: A place for blogs within the SAC web page has been discussed
- AD: there's a place earmarked for SAC blog but where else...linked to...
- RD: before we get the newsletter launched – could maybe go through the Mayor's newsletter – link,
- W: What is the content approval process?
- CIT – send to SAC for comments and then let the new director approve
- GF – We could share the UN report on about million animals in peril of extinction...which will lead to human extinction
- RD – language is getting more inclusive about animals and people vs. animals vs. people
- AD: Convert the abstract and global to local impact will help people understand better

VI. Bag-ban ordinance (7:15 pm)

- BC: forwarded SAC update

Then following topics were reviewed and voted unanimously in favor of:

- Single use plastic bags less than 4.0 mils in thickness shall be banned.
- Require a 15-cent fee on paper shopping bags. Restaurants and food deliveries to be exempt from the paper bag fee.
- Borough Council shall decide how to enforce the ban
- Businesses may apply for an exemption if "no reasonable alternative is practical" i.e. pharmaceutical prescription deliveries

Transition Plan:

- Six months of outreach, education and transition (no fines). After six months - enforcement starts.
- Distribute fact sheets with ordinance details and motivation for the policy.

- Display banners announcing the ban and offer at a modest price re-usable bags on which the borough's new policy is explained.
- Plastic Straws

Definitions:

- Plastic beverage straw – a tube made of plastic derived from either petroleum or a polymer based on corn or other plant sources and includes compostable straws but does not include straws made from non-plastic materials, such as paper, sugar cane, bamboo, etc.
- Beverage provider includes any business or organization that offers beverages to a consumer for consumption.
- Provision of plastic straws is prohibited
- Restaurant shall ask each dine-in customer if the customer wants a single-use straw before providing a straw to that customer (from Davis CA ordinance).
- Plastic beverage straws shall not be used or distributed within the Borough of West Chester. Non-plastic straws as defined above are acceptable alternatives when a straw is requested.

Exemptions:

- Pre-packaged drinks prepared and packaged outside the Borough and sold at Borough commercial establishments (e.g. pre-wrapped juice boxes).
- Use by medical or dental facilities.
- Use by individuals with a disability, or other impairment, requiring use of plastic straws.
- When provided with a beverage on private property used as a residence.

- **BC: Committee vote on amendments; all in favor**

VII. Renewable Energy Planning (7:30 – 7:45pm) as above:

- BC: JW featured in WC Press magazine on renewable energy
- JW: all 6 townships WCB, E & W Goshen, E. Bradford, W. Whiteland, Westtown (Thornbury opted out b/c straddles to counties) approved funding the collaborative renewable energy planning study by Cadmus at the last minute, nice community support. Each township has appointed 2 Environ. Advisory Committee people to be on the next step implementation group.

Side-bar: JW: what is our role next with the bag and straw bans...BC: go to the aligned townships RD: implementation?: make banners, fact sheets; to get their support; CM: new Dir's job to implement: RD & CIT belong to local grass roots West Chester Green Team with a "Plastic Free Please"
JW: Conshohocken has a group that supports...friends of...

VIII. New Business/Miscellaneous:

- GF: Chester County PA master naturalist program – program for this coming fall; 55 hour course to study the area...certification maintained through volunteer hours; not enough people signed up so still open. Class Tuesdays nights, some weekend field trips, final presentation. Every county has one...

8:10 BC: meeting adjourned

NEXT MEETING June 13, 2019 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Connie McEvoy