



Delaware County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, September 12th, 2024
 6:00 - 8:00 PM



Attendees:

Commission Members		Other County Staff
PUBLIC MEMBERS (5 for Quorum)		Barbara O'Malley
	Steve Clark	Elaine Schaefer
X	David Director	Ron Aquilino
	Krystl Gauld	Sue DePompeo
	Cephus Hales-Richardson	
X	Carol Martsolf	
X	Julie Prey	
X	Jaclyn Rhoads	
	Shawn Stancill	
	Grace Venit	
	Joi Washington	
GOVERNMENT MEMBERS (4 for Quorum)		
X	Gina Burritt	
	Laura Goodrich-Cairns	
X	Karen Wilwol	
X	Anne Stauffer	
	Ed Orner	
X	John Bosch (A)	

Commission Members		Other County Staff
X	Becca Yurkovich	

1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Interactive Question – Jaclyn Rhoads

- The meeting began at 2:00 PM. Jaclyn took attendance and quorum was not present. The meeting then moved on to the interactive discussion:
 - Q: How long does it take for a plastic bottle to take break down?
 - A: 20 - 450 years depending on material type and other conditions.

2. Instructions for Public Comment - Jaclyn Rhoads

- Throughout the meeting, we will provide the opportunity for residents and guests to provide feedback. Guests may submit written comments to the email SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us. *Guests may also provide comment in the chat window of the Zoom meeting or they may raise their hand and will have the opportunity to speak.*

Public Comment (SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us and from Zoom chat)

No public comment.

3. Old Business Update - Traveling Glass Bin Recycling - with Pennsylvania Resources Council Executive Director Darren Spielman and Review and Glass Program Coordinator Ethan Woodfill

Darren Spielman introduced PRC as a statewide environmental organization dedicated to the vision of a Pennsylvania where nothing is wasted. He noted that glass is one of the most recyclable items, as it can be infinitely recycled, however, in 2019, many communities in southwestern PA were getting rid of curbside glass recycling. This prompted the launch of the PRC traveling glass bins which serve to collect source-separated glass for efficient recycling. Darren then recognized why many communities are using this program:

1. *It fulfills a need where there is not currently curbside recycling;*
2. *Where there is curbside, glass is going to used as an alternative daily cover at landfills, so it is not truly being recycled; or,*

3. *Curbside recycling is single streams, which results in only 40% getting recovery.*

Darren then shared the specifics of the program which allows communities to host a traveling glass bin for around \$300 to allow for efficient glass recycling in the community for a limited amount of time. He also shared that Haverford Township did a pilot over the summer and has chosen to make the bin permanent!

Questions were asked by Commission members regarding contamination, cost, location, and other questions. Members were asked to keep their eyes open for any communities that may be interested in hosting the bin.

Public Comment (SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us and from Zoom chat)

No public comment.

4. Office of Sustainability Update - Becca Yurkovich

- **Zero Waste Plan**
 - First draft of compliance document has been received by DCSWA for the 10-Year Municipal Solid Waste Plan
 - Meeting scheduled with the Advisory Committees for September 17th for comments on the Zero Waste Plan - Final Comments due September 27th
 - Next steps - consolidate comments and identify work plan
- **Climate Vulnerability Toolkit** - Project development underway with GIS
- **Sustainability Plan** - Working with IT to create a database for tracking information.
- **Tree Canopy Study** - Project is finally underway. Data collection currently going on.
- **Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeastern PA (SEPSPA)**- Renewable Energy Policy shared in the last meeting was adopted.
- **USDA Composting Grant** - applied September 4th for pilot composting program in partnership with Chester County Solid Waste Authority and Chester County Planning Department
- **Other projects also shared including:**
 - Campaign Sign Recycling
 - Delco Solar Tour
 - Recycling in Government Center
 - Data Transfer for Energy Efficiency Tracking
 - Public Engagement Events for the month of October and November
- **Other Announcements including upcoming education events hosted by other entities**
 - PA Sustainability Week - October 7th - 11th
 - US Department of Energy - Justice Week - October 22nd - October 24th
 - Keep PA Beautiful Summit for Community Stewardship - October 16th and 17th

6. Action Items from Last Meeting - Jaclyn Rhoads

- Glass locations from PRC
- Criteria for Open Space (Green Space Task Force)
 - Sustainability Plan Action in the area of Natural Resources. Green Space Task Force (GSTF) is reviewing municipal plans to identify priorities. Once there is a list, it will come back to the Sustainability Commission for additional review and perspective.
 - Jaclyn recognized that she has seen “Flood Parks” in New Jersey to assist with climate resilience and flooding issues.
- In-Person Meeting - November
 - Considering in-person meeting in Chester City with a guest speaker from the City.
 - Add time at the beginning and the end for networking and chatting.

7. New Business – Jaclyn Rhoads to ask group for new business

- Comment on the DVRPC Delaware County Trail Crossings Toolkit
 - Gina Burritt shared that DVRPC created a Trail Crossing Toolkit on behalf of Delaware County. This document looks at how design differs for trails crossing different kinds of roads.
 - The target audience of the document was further discussed, as well. It was recognized that it is to be used as a technical document for planning purposes.
- Call for Nominations for Conservation District Board of Directors
 - Karen Wilwol recognized that there is currently a vacancy for a Farm Director position on the Conservation District Board. As a nominating organization, the Delaware County Sustainability Commission can nominate someone to this role.
 - Two positions are currently filled by Steve Linvil and Randy Bates, but there is one open spot.
- Thanking Shawn Stancill, Krystl Gauld, and Cephus Hales Richardson for their time of service on the Sustainability Commission!
 - Openings on the Sustainability Commission - Applications Clost September 27th
- Anne Stauffer shared that the Delaware County Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Bethel and Concord Township’s will be doing a BioBlitz in Clayton Park on Saturday, September 21st, all are invited to attend

8. Set Action Items for Next Meeting - Jaclyn Rhoads

- Approve meeting minutes from June, August, and September.
- Additional updates on the GSTF Open Space Criteria
- Setting November Meeting at Chester City Hall
- Vacancies on the Sustainability Commission
- Finding Delco Solar Tour Locations
- Traveling Glass Bins locations for around the County
- October Meeting is the 3rd week in October

Public Comment (SustainDelco@co.delaware.pa.us and from Zoom chat)

No public comment.

9. Adjourn

As there was no quorum present, there was no formal motion to adjourn.