

NOTICE - WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the Whitemarsh Township Environmental Advisory Board Meeting will be held on June 29, 2020 and will begin at 7:00PM.

Due to the COVID 19 health pandemic, this meeting will be conducted remotely via ZOOM. The public may join this meeting by either telephone using the dial in number or visiting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88126654795?pwd=bHILRHUyNjFudDBja2hsS20xN3JLQT09> . Additional information can be found on the Township's' website www.whitemarshtwp.org.

Public comment via email to Assistant Township Manager, shalbom@whitemarshtwp.org must be submitted prior to the start of the meeting. Public comment will also be accepted via the ZOOM chat button during the meeting. In both cases you will need to provide your name and address for the record.

Persons with a disability who wish to participate in the public hearing and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation to participate in the hearing should contact Whitemarsh Township at 484-594-2601.

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Richard L. Mellor, Jr.
Township Manager

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, June 29th, 2020 (Rescheduled May Meeting)
7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

____ ERNO __ GEASLAND __ HARRIS __ HEUCKEROTH __ JOHNSTON __ MERKLE __ SHREERO

LIAISONS:

____ HALBOM, Staff ____ DROSSNER, BOS

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. NEW ITEMS

- a. Welcome to Katie Erno
- b. Energy Transition Plan Presentation
- c. Recognition of the Selective Comprehensive Plan Update

3. OLD ITEMS

- a. *Working Groups Update (Ready for 100, Recycling, McCarty Park).*
- b. *Social Media Update*

4. APPROVAL OF THE January, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. Next Meeting Date: Monday, July

7. ADJOURNMENT

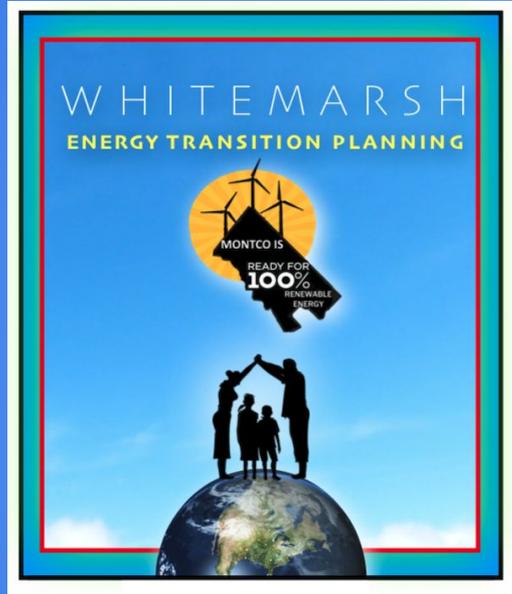
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4. The Board Chair shall preside over Public Comments and may within their discretion:
 - a. Recognize individuals wishing to offer comment.
 - b. Require identification of such persons.
 - c. Allocate total available Public Comment time among all individuals wishing to comment.
 - d. Allocate up to a five (5) minute maximum for each individual to offer Public Comment at a meeting.
 - e. Rule out of order scandalous, impertinent and redundant comment or any comment the discernible purpose of which is to disrupt or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting including the questioning of, or polling of, or debating with, individual members of the Board.

WHITEMARSH

RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN



1st Draft Proposal - Presentation March 16 - June 29, 2020



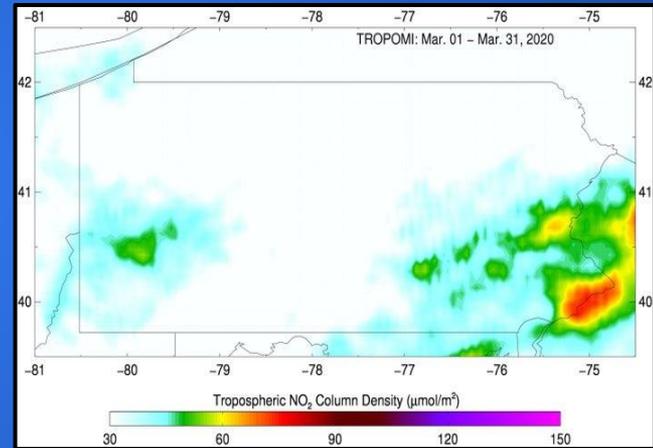
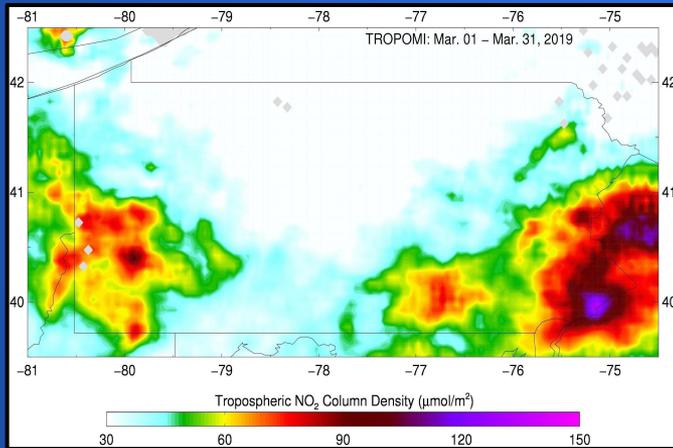
PRESENTATION CONTENT

- CONTEXT
- WHO
- WHAT
- NEXT STEPS

“We have a single mission: to protect and hand on the planet to the next generation.”

Francois Hollande, Former President of France

SEPA AIR QUALITY HAS SEEN HISTORICALLY HEALTHY LEVELS AMID THE CORONAVIRUS SHUTDOWNS.



In March 2019, nitrous oxide concentrations were at or over a density of 100 parts per million in Philadelphia at around 75 in much of southeastern Pennsylvania, as shown above courtesy of NOAA:

Come March 2020, those levels dropped to around 75 just in the city, to below 50 in the suburbs, and vanished altogether in most of the rest of the state, NOAA satellite footage shows.



STORM

June 3, 2020

Nearly 3,000 customers, or 37 percent of the Township had no power for days.



The Blessed Virgin Mary was miraculously unscathed when a neighbor's tree fell, also narrowly missing their house. 3,000 Whitmarshians camped out, sharing generators and swapping stories.

WHITEMARSH RESIDENTS ARE GOING SOLAR!



While protecting their homes from stormwater.

WHITEMARSH RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN



- Whitemarsh Township
 - WT EAB & BOS - Ready for 100 Resolution
 - WT Township Managers & Department Heads
 - EAB - Renewable Energy Transition Planning Team
 - Comprehensive Plan and Sustainable Communities
- Montgomery County Consortium of Communities
- MONTCO Ready For 100
- SE PA Ready For 100

WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR WHITEMARSH RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN?



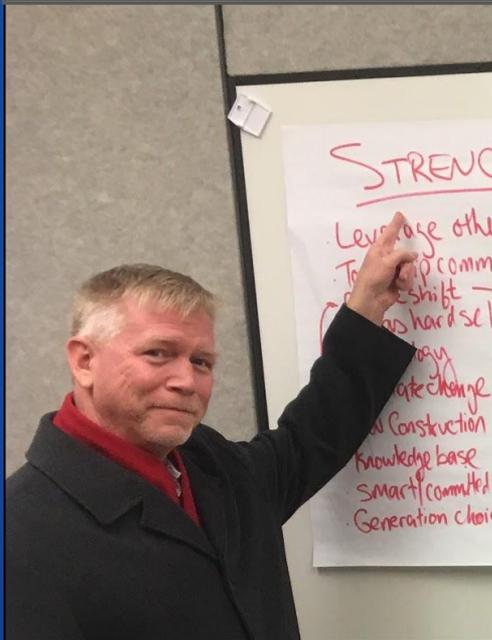
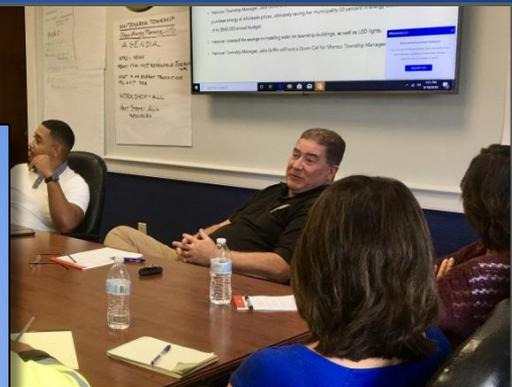
WT EAB, WT BOS & Residents & MONTCO RF 100

WHITEMARSH RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN



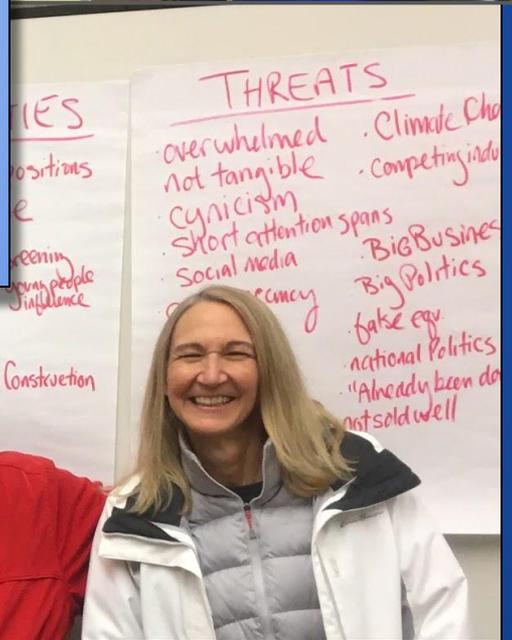
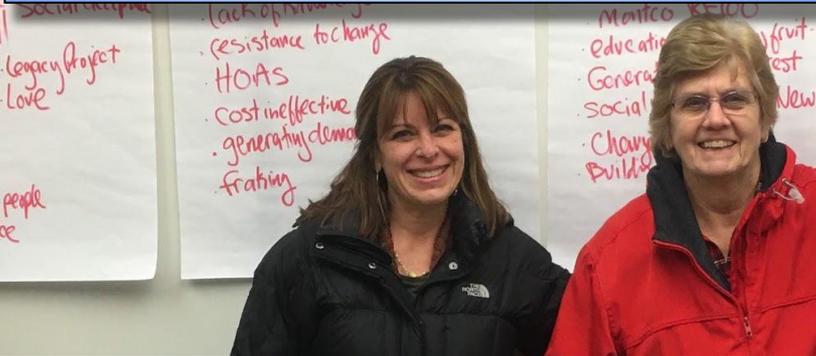
Whitemarsh Township Takes the Lead Setting RET Action Goals

- WT EAB Chair Deb Shreero & Lou Ann Merkle lead workshop September 2019
- WT Township Asst. Manager Sean Halbom & Department Heads participate



WRET PLANNING TEAM

Deb Shreero, EAB Chair
 Fran McCusker, Township Board Supervisor
 Pastor David Eckert, Pastor Messiah United Methodist Church,
 Rev. Christina Nord, Pastor, St.Jude at the Nativity, Episcopal Diocese
 Rabbi Glenn Ettman, Township Resident, Rabbi, Or Ami Congregation
 Penny Brody, Township Resident, Local Business Owner
 Lisa Koelwyn, Township Resident
 Nancy Braitman, Township Resident
 John Schroeder, Township Resident
 Aaron Baizman, Township Resident, Energy Advisor
 Sean Halbom, Township Asst. Manager
 Laura Nestor, Township Board Supervisor and Chair
 Lou Ann Merkle, EAB Vice Chair and WRETP Team Chair



**MONTCO RF 100
MUNICIPALITIES &
PARTICIPANTS**

<u>Muni</u>	<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Role</u>
Abington	6/13/2019	Neal Gale	EAC	Cakky Braun-Evans	EAC
Ambler	3/19/2019	Nellie DiPietro	Council	Madge Monser	EAC
Bridgeport	11/3/2018	Keith Truman	Borough Mgr.		
Cheltenham	3/20/2019	Wendy Ankrom	EAC	Sidney Kahn	EAC
Conshohocken	6/19/2019	Elisa Lanzutti	EAC	Matt Breidenstein	EAC
Narberth	4/17/2019	Jesse Lytle	EAC	Miriam Shakow	EAC
Norristown	4/2/2019	Rashaad Bates	Resident	David McMahon	Resident
Plymouth	4/8/2019	Bill Sabey	EAB	Andy Katronik	EAB
Springfield	1/9/2019	Joy Bergey	EAC		
Upper Merion	8/15/2019	Zach Davis	EAC	Alexandra Small	EAC
West Norriton	4/14/2020	El-Tirib McKelvy	EAC	Marc Brier	EAC
Whitemarsh	3/14/2019	Lou Ann Merkle	EAB	?	

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CONSORTIUM OF COMMUNITIES



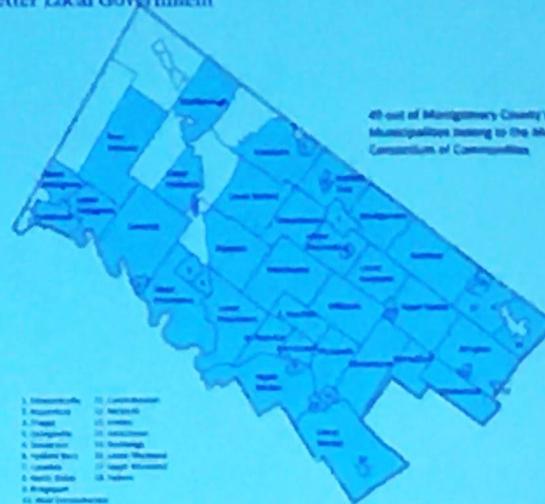
**Montgomery County
Consortium of Communities**
Collaboration for Better Local Government

Partnership of 48 MontCo. Communities

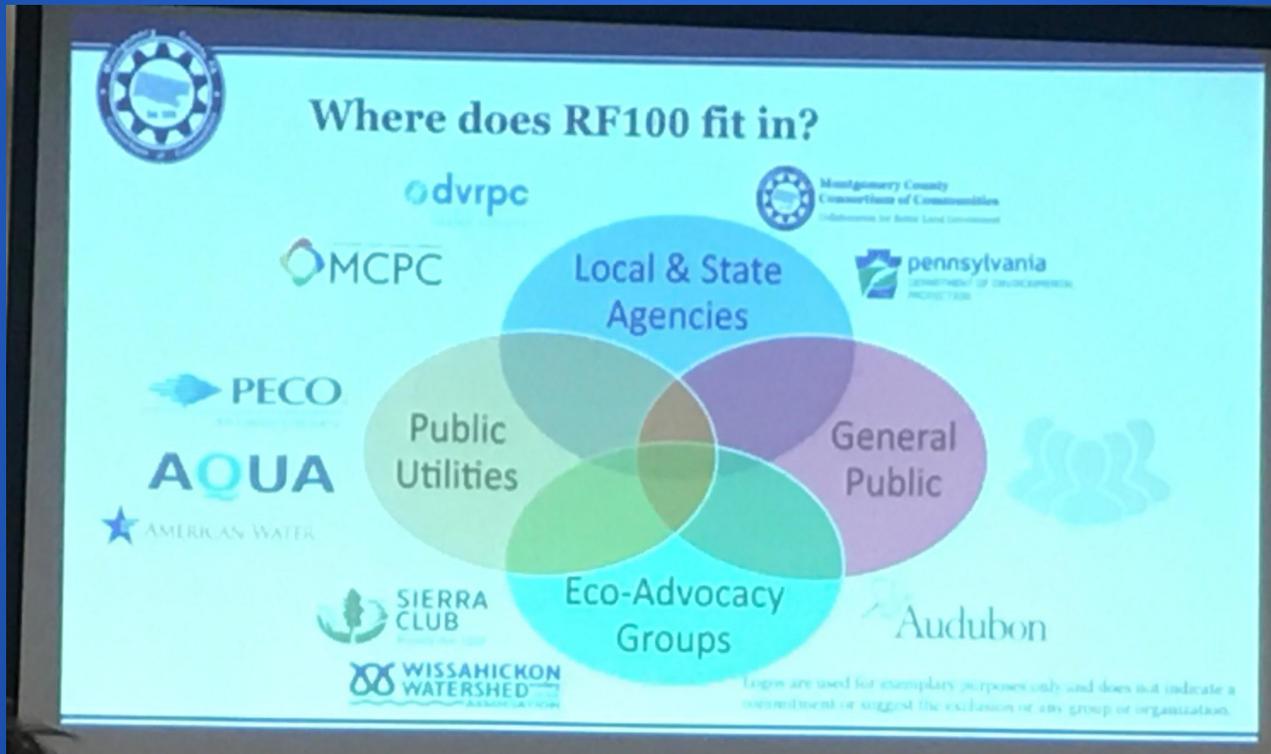
747,151 Residents
(2010 Census)

851,651 Residents
(2035 Forecast)

**+104,500
Population Inc.**



WHO'S COLLABORATING ON RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION?



Commit:

Plan:

Act:

Symbolic Statement

Start the conversation -
get people's attention

Clean Energy Resolution

Goal Setting Shows Political
Commitment

Comp Plan Updates

Puts the energy transition in context with other
sustainability initiatives

Comp Plan is the place for far-sighted goals

Energy Transition Plan

A roadmap for achieving the goals of the
resolution

Options, prioritize actions, cost estimates, progress
metrics, equity assessments, reference models

Energy Action

Efficiency incentives, grid options,
local generation, energy storage,
demand reduction, collective
bargaining, micro-grids, matching
buyers with sellers

Don't leave people behind - keep
this transition fair and inclusive

Stakeholder Engagement

Host serious meetings with community, business, institutions, faith institutions, etc.
Before, during and after the roll-out of the transition plan

WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP

Ready for 100 Resolution

Whitemarsh Township will join other leading towns and cities in the national movement, to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy community-wide, and complete this transition to:

- 100% clean, renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% clean, renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2050

- The Whitemarsh Township EAB will provide guidance for
 - Commissioning a committee and/or contractor to draft an Energy Transition Plan for achieving these goals by March 2020
 - To include interim milestones,
 - financial impacts
 - Equity metrics
 - Potential financing mechanisms and
 - The percentage of renewable energy that is locally produced



Clean renewable energy is carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells and geothermal...

- Whitemarsh Township commits to working with other **Montgomery County Municipalities** and the **Montgomery County Planning Commission** and/or Delaware Valley Regional Valley Planning Commission to create an Energy Planner/Advocate position.

- The Energy Planner/Advocate will develop and implement renewable energy strategies for Montgomery County municipalities, residents, businesses and institutions.
- This Energy Planner/Advocate would serve for three years at an approximate cost of \$100,000 per year, to be funded by a minimum of 15 participating municipalities and available grant support.
- WT BOS provided \$10,000 per year for three years 2019 - 2021 for WRET Planning (and implementation)

PLANNING

Content

GOALS - STRATEGIES - RESPONSIBILITIES - TIMELINE - COST

1. Efficiency Carbon Reduction
2. Ordinances and Guidelines Building and Construction
3. Community Engagement
 - Township Walks the Talk - Leads By Example
 - Engaging Businesses & Commerce, Faith Community & Residents, Schools and Community Organizations
4. Funding Options and Recommendations
5. Transportation Transit & Trails
6. Tracking Progress Establishing Tools for Measuring Progress
7. Renewable Energy Supply Local Job Creation

GOAL 1 ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Complete Energy Audit assessing township buildings and operations and compare to 2013 audit
- Develop Energy Audit Implementation Plan based on township energy audit
- Develop and implement an energy efficiency education and promotion plan for residents and businesses

GOAL 2 ORDINANCES AND GUIDELINES

- Review current ordinances to remove impediments to use of renewable energy
- Investigate measures to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy projects considering permitting fees and timeline reduction
- Monitor and consider ordinances and standards encouraging renewable energy and efficiency

GOAL 3 FUNDING

- Research community needs and ways to make energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy accessible
- Track township energy savings by creating line item in township budget*

GOAL 4 RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY

- Provide education concerning renewable energy choice/purchase
- Explore feasibility of generating renewable energy to supply municipal operations
- Township purchases 100% renewable energy

GOAL 5 TRANSPORTATION

- Develop a Whitemarsh Township Green Fleet policy and plan
- Improve EV infrastructure
- Assess and improve alternative transportation

GOAL 6 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Develop and implement a community engagement plan to involve wide range of groups in converting to renewable energy
- Host energy leaders program to share renewable energy experiences and explore opportunities for transitioning to renewable energy

GOAL 7 TRACKING PROGRESS

- Develop benchmarking and tracking program with annual reporting for gas powered vehicles and equipment
- Develop a system for township to report progress on renewable energy use and implementation of energy efficiency measures
- Review potential methods to acknowledge strides made by township residents and businesses concerning renewable energy

Next Steps

- EAB approval of Whitemarsh Energy Transition Plan
- Presentation to BOS for discussion and approval
- Implementation
- Coordination with local groups and townships

We've made great strides - accomplished lots!

What's Next?

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Apply to PA DEP ICLEI Climate Action Plan -*
 - a. Consortium members authorized the Consortium's participation in the ICLEI/PADEP.
 - b. To collaborate with groups and not reinvent the wheel
 - c. Benefiting from others in region who are ahead of us who hired an ETP Planner

2. *Participate in the 12 week Energy Planning for Prosperity and Resilience Seminar Series*
 - a. For municipal clean energy leadership planning teams
 - b. Application is due July and starts in August \$50 fee
 - c. Two participants required

3. *OR - if we can't do either #1 or #2 - Refine our plan*

Considering points identified for 7 WRET Action Plan Goals - in slides at end.

Lead by Example – Local Government

Local Climate Action Assistance Program

- ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability – USA hired as contractor
- College student matched with local government
- ICLEI trains student on inventory tool (fall semester) and climate action planning (spring semester)
- Final product: 20 GHG inventories & 20 local climate action plans
- First training webinar in early September 2019 & final work completed by June 30, 2020

Special Thanks to

Whitemarsh Township Supervisors

Laura Nestor Boyle

Fran McCusker

Michael Drossner

Environmental Advisory Board

Deb Shreero

Kate Johnson

Whitemarsh Township Managers

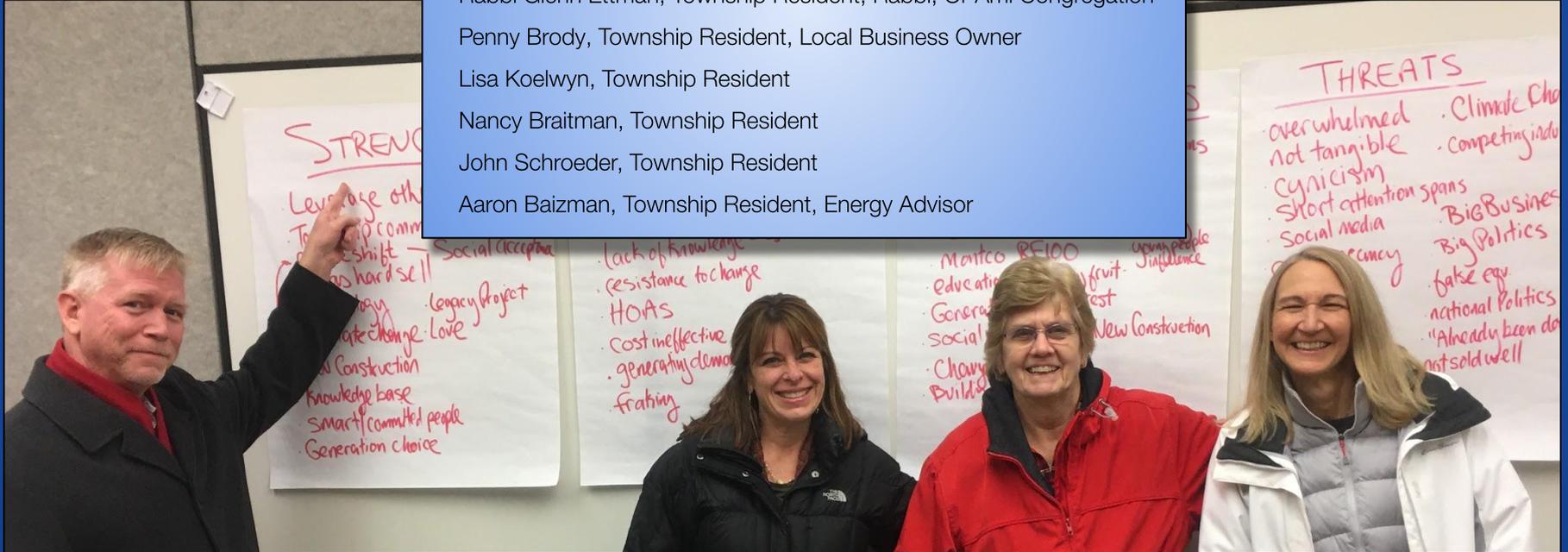
Rick Mellor

Sean Halbom

Special Thanks to

WRET PLANNING TEAM Community Members!

Pastor David Eckert, Pastor Messiah United Methodist Church,
Rev. Christina Nord, Pastor, St. Jude at the Nativity, Episcopal Diocese
Rabbi Glenn Ettman, Township Resident, Rabbi, Or Ami Congregation
Penny Brody, Township Resident, Local Business Owner
Lisa Koelwyn, Township Resident
Nancy Braitman, Township Resident
John Schroeder, Township Resident
Aaron Baizman, Township Resident, Energy Advisor



*Now our work begins to
Build our 100% Clean Energy Future for our kids and our Planet*



**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, January 13, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

___ VACANT X_ GEASLAND X_ HARRIS X_ HEUCKEROTH O_ JOHNSTON X_ MERKLE X_ SHREERO

LIAISONS:

X HALBOM, Staff _X_ DROSSNER, BOS Liaison

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Shreero called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

RE-ORGANIZATION VOTE

Debbie Heuckeroth motioned to nominate Deb Shreero as Chair, and Lou Ann Merkle as Vice-Chair. Debbie Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. OLD ITEMS

- a. *Working Groups Update (Green Energy Team, Live Green: Reduce Waste Team, Naturalized Spaces Team).*

Lou Ann Merkle updated the EAB concerning the Green Energy Team's progress and recent meetings. Highlights included community charrettes with faith-based organizations, Township staff, and plans to conduct future charrettes with the local business community and the School District. An update was provided concerning the Ready for 100 collaboration with neighboring communities and possible future resources. Lou Ann discussed her work creating a draft energy transition plan and will share a first draft at EAB's March meeting. The next meeting will take place on January 21st at Messiah United Methodist Church at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Heuckeroth thanked Lou Ann for her work and added a comment about Project Drawdown, an informational resource relevant to this topic.

*Ms. Heuckeroth updated the EAB concerning Naturalized Spaces Team's work. 2019 activities included educational work with residents, budget recommendations, and additional trash cans installed at McCarthy Park. She discussed opportunities for 2020, and improvements for McCarthy Park and the management of trash in that area. The team has expressed interest in collaborating with the Green House volunteers to stress the importance of native species to residents. **She proposed a resolution to host a joint-meeting between the EAB, Shade Tree Commission, Parks and Rec, Open Space Committee, and the School Board to talk about open spaces and short/long-term strategy for care. Gordon Geasland seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.***

The Naturalized Space Team has been communicating with the Trash Mob to host the next event at McCarthy Park. Gordon Geasland presented some design templates he made to combat littering and remind residents who walk their dogs to clean up the waste. Mr. Halbom was asked to communicate with the Police Department concerning next steps. Mr.

Geasland next discussed the use of no littering signs along River Road and discussed ways to improve signage and increase enforcement. Mr. Drossner asked Mr. Geasland if he had already spoken with the Chief of Police about littering signage. Mr. Geasland replied that he had spoken with the Chief and the conversation went well.

Chair Shreero added that Township staff have been researching a grant opportunity through the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund. Mr. Halbom provided an update regarding efforts made by staff to date. A future site meeting is being planned in coordination with Township Staff, EAB, and RedTail Restoration. If awarded, the grant would provide an 80/20 match to the Township's basin work within the Schuylkill River water table of Whitemarsh Township.

Eli Glick offered public comment about invasive species at McCarthy Basin.

b. *Social Media Update*

We now have 70 followers on Instagram.

c. *Business Incentive Program Update*

Debra has not received responses to her email requesting information about this program. This will be discussed in March's meeting.

3. NEW ITEMS

- a. *Retrievr (Formerly Curb My Clutter) – Larry Hebling presented on behalf of Retrievr. Retrievr is a program which collects used clothing and electronics for reuse. It is a mobile phone application driven program that collects items directly from residents' doorsteps. There are charges for taking TVs and microwaves.*
- b. *Compost Demonstration at Township Day. Mr. Halbom spoke with Montgomery County's Recycling coordinator about a live composting demonstration. Staff would like to combine the "Rot" PSA with this live demo, if possible.*
- c. *EAB reusable shopping bags were ordered and have arrived. These can be used as giveaways at EAB outreach events.*

4. APPROVAL OF THE November, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Debra Harris moved to approve the minutes, Deb Shreero seconded. The motion passed unanimously

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. *Whitemarsh Township changed to a paperless timekeeping and payroll system in 2020.*
- b. *Municipal Sustainability Program – The Board of Supervisors voted in December 2019 meeting to participate in the Pennsylvania Municipal League, Sustainability PA Community Certification Program. Mr. Halbom provided an update regarding next step: submitting our formal application to determine our current sustainability score.*

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cheryl Darby offered public comment thanking Gordon for his work addressing litter in the Township. Cheryl inquired if her local business might qualify for the Business Incentive Program by changing to a green energy provider.

7. **Next Meeting Date:** Monday, March 16, 2020
8. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Lou Ann Merkle to adjourn, seconded by Deb Shreero, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

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