



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS
Marian D. Moskowitz
Josh Maxwell
Michelle Kichline

Brian N. O'Leary, AICP
Executive Director

PLANNING COMMISSION
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MINUTES: Organizational Meeting
Environmental and Energy Advisory Board

Zoom Video/Audio
May 28, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jon Altshul; Jan Bowers; David Busch; Mark Connolly; Carol DeWolf; Jess Cadorette; Steve Krug; David Mazzocco; Meredith Mayer; Mike Murphy; Scott Neumann; Brian O'Leary; Rachel Roberts; Paul Spiegel; Chris Strohmaier; Kevin Warren; Jim Wylie; Will Williams; Peter Williamson; Brianne Zanin.

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Stauffer, Assistant Director; Carolyn Conwell; Beth Cunliffe; Jake Michael; Elle Steinman; Suzanne Wozniak.

VISITORS: There were no visitors.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board held via Zoom video/audio on Thursday, May 28, 2020 was called to order at 2:31 P.M. by temporary Chair Brian O'Leary.

COMMISSIONERS WELCOME:

Commissioners' Marian D. Moskowitz, Josh Maxwell and Michelle Kichline each welcomed the new members to the first organizational meeting of the Environmental and Energy Advisory Board.

Temporary Chairs' Welcome:

Mr. O'Leary welcomed the members to the first meeting of the Environmental and Energy Advisory Board and gave an overview of the agenda.

Self-Introductions of Board Members:

Each member took a moment to introduce themselves and their affiliations.

ACTION ITEMS:

Election of Chair:

Action item deferred to the end of the meeting.

Election of Vice-Chair and Secretary:

Action item deferred to the end of the meeting.

Adoption of Bylaws:

A MOTION TO ADOPT THE BYLAWS WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WAS MADE BY MS. DEWOLF, SECONDED BY MS. BOWERS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Proposed Meeting Schedule:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE WAS MADE BY MR. BUSCH, SECONDED BY MR. SPEIGEL, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

Protected Open Space Totals (POST):

The Planning Commission has collected information summarizing the amount of open space protected in Chester County each year since 2000. Mr. Michael reported that according to Protected Open Space Tracking (POST), 142,000 acres of protected open space, or 29.3% of the County was preserved as of December 31, 2019. An estimated 2,400 acres of open space were protected in 2019, making it one of the two highest annual increases in protected open space since 2010.

The following trends were observed for the year 2019:

- In 2019, the county-funded Agricultural Conservation Easements accounted for over 1,200 acres of protected open space.
- In 2019, the state park system added over 80 acres.
- In 2019, municipalities added roughly 230 acres of recreational parks and other municipally protected open spaces.
- In 2019, land trusts eased over 590 acres, which is typical.
- In 2019, homeowner association (HOA) open space protected over 210 acres.

More information can be found at <https://www.chescoplanning.org/openspace/POST.cfm>.

Fifty Ways Your Community Can Protect our Planet:

Mr. O'Leary presented information on the guide *50 Ways Your Community Can Protect Our Planet*. In honor of Earth Day's 50th anniversary, this booklet features 50 ways a community can help protect the earth's resources and ensure a resilient environment that supports healthy living year-round. This guide will link municipalities to resources the county has available. The brochure can be found here <https://www.chescoplanning.org/pdf/Environment-50WaysBrochure.pdf>.

Draft Climate Action Plan Overview:

Ms. Stauffer presented information on the draft Climate Action Plan. Work on a climate action plan for Chester County began in late 2019 with completion of the plan anticipated in 2020. The plan will include an updated greenhouse gas emissions inventory and an action plan for reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency throughout the county. The new climate action plan will expand on the recommendations made in the 2010 Greenhouse Gas Reduction report. More information can be found at <https://chescoplanning.org/Environmental/ClimateAction.cfm>.

Planning Commission Director's Report:

Mr. O'Leary reported to the board regarding the County closure due to Covid19 and the status of staff working remotely.

The Chester County Commissioners have created a new website "Restore Chester County" as a toolkit to assist in the reopening process in Chester County. The website can be found at <https://restorechestercounty.org/>.

ACTION ITEMS:

Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary:

A MOTION TO ELECT MS. JESS CADORETTE AS CHAIR, MR. PAUL SPIEGEL AS VICE CHAIR, AND MR. BRIAN O'LEARY AS SECRETARY WAS MADE BY MS. BOWERS, SECONDED BY MR. WILLIAMSON, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 4:14 PM. WAS MADE BY MS. DEWOLF, SECONDED BY MR. MAZZOCCO, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian N. O'Leary, AICP
Secretary

BNO/slw

Note: Complete reports are a part of the Chester County Planning Commission files and can be reviewed at the Planning Commission Office.