

Cheltenham Chamber of Citizens

A 501(c) (3) Nonprofit

www.CheltenhamChamberofCitizens.com

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Annual Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2022

Via Zoom

Attendees: Edie Cerebi, Judi Gratz, Poppy Bass, Gail Post, Emily Steinberg, Brooke Welsh, Susanne Whitehead, Emily Stine, Tom McHugh, Ted Cerebi, Olga McHugh, Mitch Zygmund-Felt, Joanne Dixon Cannon, Johnson Family, Irv Brockington, Paul Rappoport, Rose, Eisenman, Sidney Kahn, Bonine Hay, Ann Rappoport, Chuck & Franny, Martha Campbell, Donna Powell, Frank Slesinski, Matt Areman, Dmrpo, Rhonda Isser, Theresa Camerota, Raisch Family, Jake Stine, Rosemarie, Mary Russell, Camille Byrd, Tom Mullian, Randy Garbin, Karen Lecks, Steve McC,

Annual Organizational Meeting

1. Welcome & Introduction of Board Members – Edie Cerebi
 - a. Call to order at 7:07pm
 - b. Documents and agenda are posted online at www.cheltenhamchamberofcitizens.com/2022-annual-meeting.html
 - c. Thank the Commissioners who are joining us tonight (Zygmund-Felt, Rappoport, Brockington, Areman)
 - d. Originally planned for two speakers, however Chris Clewell is not able to join us this evening. He is under the weather and is working this evening because of possible icy weather.
 - e. Introduction of current CCC board members and recognition of past board member Jeffrey Olawski
2. Secretary Report – Emily Stine
 - a. Motion to accept 2021 minutes – Emily Stine
 - b. Second to motion – Susanne Whitehead
 - c. Unanimously accepted
3. Treasurer Report – Poppy Bass
 - a. Balance is \$1406.62
 - b. Motion to accept – Brooke Welsh
 - c. Second to the motion - Judi Gratz

- d. Unanimously accepted
- 4. Web Administrator Report – Edie Cerebi
 - a. 42 emails sent last year to an average of 402 email addresses
 - b. 136 Facebook page post
 - c. Views on our website
 - d. Motion to accept = Olga McHugh
 - e. Second to the motion – Poppy Bass
 - f. Unanimously accepted
- 5. President’s Report
 - a. Our board meets monthly via zoom and meetings are open to the public
 - b. Next year’s meeting dates are listed in the agenda for tonight’s meeting
 - c. Bylaws Revisions this year
 - i. Extension of Treasurer’s term
 - ii. Expansion of acceptable modes of conduction business
- 6. Civic Engagement and Informing Residents
 - a. Brief presentation by Edie Cerebi about our mission and how we communicate with the community
 - b. We’re entering our 13th year as a non-profit and not 501c3 organization
 - c. We’re focused on (among other things): preservation of Jenkintown-Wyncote station, changes to the Church Rd & Greenwood Ave intersection, storm water management, sustainability, environmentalism including “environmental news you can use” section of website
- 7. Presentation of 2022 Board Members
 - a. Slate – Edie Cerebi, Judith
 - b. Nominations from the floor – none
- 8. Election of Board Members
 - a. Motion to accept the slate – Brooke Welsh
 - b. Second to the motion – Susanne Whitehead
 - c. Unanimously accepted slage
 - d. Reminder that board members can join mid-year, please let us know if you’re interested
- 9. Old Business - none
- 10. New Business & Announcements - none
- 11. Adjournment
 - a. Motion to adjourn – Edie Cerebi
 - b. Second – Poppy Bass
 - c. Unanimously adjourned

Guest Speakers

- 1. Cheltenham Township Recycling Program
 - a. Judith Gratz shared information from Chris Clewell who could not join us this evening

- b. The Township is working on changes to the recycling program
 - c. For now, continue to recycling as you are. The changes will be communicated to the public via multiple methods once they're ironed out
2. Single Use Plastics – Judith Gratz
- a. Single use plastics are a large international problem
 - b. Countries are moving to ban single-use plastics
 - c. US has already banned plastic micro beads with a law passed in 2015
 - d. Eight states have already banned single use plastics
 - e. There are personal choices we can make to use instead of single-use plastics
 - i. Reusable shopping bags
 - ii. Drinking straws made out of alternative materials
 - iii. Reusable coffee cups
 - iv. Cutlery made of alternative materials
 - v. Reusable water bottles
 - f. Many of the alternative material items are compostable
 - g. Can read more on the CCC website – the next Environmental Info You Can Use will be on this topic and should come out this week
3. Cheltenham Township Commissioner Mitch Zygmund-Felt – Stormwater Management Fee
- a. Going over some information that has been previously available in other public meetings
 - b. Stormwater Management Initiative should be implemented in 2022 in addition to the Township's other 2022 priorities that were presented at the 1/3/22 Board of Commissioners reorganization meeting
 - c. The Township has an aging infrastructure including a long history of wastewater and stormwater challenges
 - i. In terms of stormwater the ongoing issues involve:
 - 1. Upstream development
 - 2. ACOE and PA DEP flood mitigation projects
 - 3. Creek and stream overflow and roadway runoff
 - 4. Debris blocking stormwater flow
 - 5. Mud and silt displacement
 - 6. Unauthorized individual construction
 - d. Why do we need Stormwater and flooding remediation
 - i. Aging infrastructure
 - ii. Regulatory requirements
 - iii. Commercial and non-profit properties should be included in this discussion'
 - e. Township does do routine mitigation through the Public Works Department
 - f. Township and first responders are always ready to respond to flooding events for the safety of residents
 - g. Discussion of current level of service
 - i. This is more limited and reactive that is really required

- h. Target level of service after the implementation of the Stormwater Management Initiative is increased and we need to invest in some capital improvement projects, implement more best management practices in this area, and improve water quality
 - i. For decades, the Township has put off proactive and necessary improvements
 - ii. Public Works is evaluating vulnerable areas
 - iii. There are 36 priority projects throughout the Township that have been identified as needed and have been prioritized and have had projected costs calculated. All parts of the Township are included in these priority projects.
 - iv. Some funding should be coming from state and federal authorities for certain projects. The Township is working on making sure that it's in a position to get as much state, federal, and county money as possible.
- i. The proposed fees will be imposed all properties – including tax exempt properties who don't contribute property taxes but will be expected to pay this stormwater management fee.
 - i. Fees will be based on residential property size or impervious surface for developed non-residential sites.
 - ii. This should hopefully help to spread the burden across all properties that send stormwater into the system.
- j. There are 56 municipalities in PA that have already implemented stormwater management fees.
- k. Township is looking for a dedicated stream of revenue specifically for stormwater management so that future projects can be funded. Every dollar from this fee will go into the stormwater fund and be management through that fund.
- l. Discussion of how the Township analyzed impervious surface to calculate ERUs for each property.
- m. For year 1, 1 ERU = \$80. For year 2, 1 ERU = \$160, For year 3, 1 ERU = \$220 (assuming additional dollars don't come in from county, state, and federal governments).
- n. Credits
 - i. Not factored into year 1 fees
 - ii. To encourage private development of BMPs for on-site stormwater management
 - iii. Township has to inspect for the BMPs
 - iv. Credits don't expire until property is sold. New owner has to reapply to credit.
 - v. Types of residential credits
 - 1. Rain gardens, impervious pavement, underground storage, vegetated filter strips
 - 2. Maximum credit to a property is 50% of the fee
 - 3. The ordinance has detail on the specifics of the credits
 - 4. HOAs can apply to credits that they've made for the association as a whole
 - vi. Types Non-residential credits
 - 1. Structural BMPS, non-structural also

2. Details in ordinance

vii. There will be an official inquiry process in place.

4. Questions about the presentations

- a. The 2022 approved budget included over \$300k allocated for stormwater management. Is this in addition to the new fees?
 - i. This is the amount that was budgeted without the stormwater management fee. Including the fee, the expenditure should be closer to \$1.7M and could go higher if outside funding is secured. Some of this money might be spent on studies still in order to determine exactly what needs to be spent on the capital projects.
- b. Who are the experts/advisors?
 - i. Engineering firm, stormwater management firm selected through RFP process, stormwater advisory group of stakeholders from township.
- c. Have ideas been proposed for how to get cooperation from Abington and Jenkintown (upstream communities)? Are there details?
 - i. There are contractual obligations for the interceptor A wastewater replacement project that are still being fought.
 - ii. There are also issues of uncontrolled stormwater flowing into Cheltenham.
 - iii. ACOE and PA DEP will need to participate in these discussions.
 1. Glenside Flood Control project through PA DEP is slowly moving forward. Scheduled right now for 2023/24 start date.
 2. There is a hope of accelerating the ACOE project (Commissioners has a phone meeting within the last week with ACOE).
 - iv. TTF's projects in Jenkintown and Abington actually also benefit Cheltenham since they're upstream.
- d. What projects are expected to be completed in 2022?
 - i. There are some smaller projects in the priority 2 category will probably completed first while we determine the full capital budget that will be available. Examples: Grove Park, Rock Creek from Wyngate down to Curtis. Should have more detail by March/April 2022 and will be discuss at Public Works meetings.
- e. Township EAC is working on trying to reduce single-use plastic consumption in the Township. Go to the EAC's website if you have ideas.
- f. Everyone should look at the comments in the chat for more information about ways to reduce single-use plastics.
- g. How long will the recording be available on Facebook?
 - i. It will be available both on Facebook for a year and on our website.
- h. It seems that many stores are already moving toward offering alternatives to single-use plastic bags. Hopefully that can continue and expand.
- i. Support for stormwater fee since it actually encourages people to do mitigation on their own properties. However, we still face the issue of flows from Abington and Jenkintown who have not yet implemented any of these kinds of incentives. Hopefully they can

institute something like this that will do more than just send their water downstream faster.

- j. It will be important that the changes in the recycling program are communicated very effectively to the public.
5. Thank you to everyone who joined this evening and helped to make this meeting a success.
Thank you to the speakers and the Commissioners who joined us this evening.
 6. Meeting ended at 8:33pm.