

**Mt. Lebanon Environmental Sustainability Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**October 8, 2020 – Virtual**

- **Call Meeting to Order**

Attendees:

Abby Lawlor Morycz  
Sarah Levinthal  
Heather Wechter  
Tim Reidy  
Nora Alwine  
Natalie Uschner-Arroyo  
Sarah Olbrich, School Liaison  
Ryan Brown, Junior Board Member  
Andrew Flynn, Commission liaison  
Bonnie Cross, Staff liaison

Absent:

Bethany Foster-Wilhelm  
Hugh Beal, School Board Liaison

- **Public Comment:** None
- **Approval of September, 2020 Minutes:** Sarah motioned to approve the August, 2020 minutes. Abby seconded and all members in attendance approved.
- **ESB Business:**
  - **PA DEP Local Climate Action Plan.** Members discussed the plan and had questions regarding how to collect data and who would have access. Andrew said that CONNECT would gather the utility data. Members said that they would like to know more about how the ESB would coordinate with them. Andrew and Abby would speak with Eric Raabe and learn more about the process. Heather and Nora said that they would like to be involved with the program.
  - **Mt. Lebanon Climate Action Plan.** Abby went through the CAP and pulled out information. Several of the ESB members also stated that they attended the Parks Advisory Board meeting for a Tree Pittsburgh presentation. Andrew explained that Tree Pittsburgh spoke about the evolution of the tree canopy, and outlined trees that were native to our area, which carried disease, and which are the best ones to plant. Andrew stated that he'd like more information on investing in our urban forest on a cyclical basis – treating trees as assets. Tree Pittsburgh does assessments but it is still evolving. A number of topics were discussed:

- A suggestion was made about putting an article in the magazine regarding tree care. It was also stated that a list of which trees to plant was being developed for residents. A question was asked regarding whether pavers could be used instead of concrete on sidewalks. Andrew stated that he had asked about pavers, but was told that they weren't practical, required a lot of maintenance, and didn't last long.
    - Transportation. Andrew advised that a charging station for electric vehicles was scheduled next year for the Academy lot.
    - Fleet. Andrew asked Rudy Sukal about fuel efficiency. Abby noted that some jurisdictions were using Teslas for Police. The municipality is also looking at electric vehicles over time for the fleet. They are scheduled to purchase an electric vehicle for use with a license plate reader for ticketing.
    - Waste. CONNECT will work on getting information on this through the Regional Waste Management Authority.
    - Air Quality. Determine how monitors could be purchased/obtained.
    - Storm Water. How are pollutants being monitored? Is data being collected?
  - **EcoDistrict Update.** Andrew advised that to start, a Leadership Group had been formed. Eric Milliron (Commercial District Manager), Anna Siefken (Economic Development Council), Abby (ESB Chairperson), Mara Dowdy (Mt. Lebanon Partnership), and he would start discussions to form a framework. Andrew shared some initial ideas regarding the framework (attached). The timing of the EcoDistrict was good as it would feed into the Comp Plan when that document is updated in a couple of years. The information in the Comp Plan would create a roadmap in order to move forward. Once the bones of the program are developed, a larger meeting will be convened, but the ESB will be the primary driver.
  - **School Board Liaison Report.** Sarah Olbrich attended for Hugh Beal. While there was no report, she did respond to a question regarding the school's air quality; Sarah advised that the school nurse handles that information. The board made a suggestion that the schools participate in the EPA's Air Quality Flag Program and consider a resurgence of the no-idling campaign, including replacing signage where needed.
- **Adjournment.** Sarah motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Tim, and unanimously approved by the members present.