

**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  
Natalie Uschner-Arroyo  
Bethany Foster-Wilhelm  
Ryan Brown, Junior Board Member  
Andrew Flynn, Commission liaison  
Bonnie Cross, Staff liaison

Absent:

Nora Alwine  
Hugh Beal, School Board Liaison

- **Public Comment:** None

- **Approval of October 2020 Minutes:** Heather motioned to approve the August, 2020 minutes. Sarah seconded and all members in attendance approved.

- **ESB Business:**

- **Presenter: Mark Dixon, Pittsburgh Filmmaker and Activist.**

Mark provided an introduction into air pollution, stating that it was a diluted poison that manifests itself in many health issues. In the United States, 88k people died of air pollution in 2015, and in Pittsburgh, it contributes 2% towards the cause of cancer risk. Mark provided numerous other statistics, then moved into air quality monitoring. One app that is used frequently is the 'Smell Pittsburgh App' that anyone can download and report air pollution in the metro area. Others are the Aware VOC monitor, the Dylos monitor and the 'Purple Air monitor'. Mark explained the pros and cons of these and what information they provide. He recommended the Purple Air monitor as the best on a cost-benefit basis.

Mark advised that money was available from the ACHD Clean Air fund and that it might be a way to start getting some monitors. He suggested that if money could be obtained, the ESB could provide monitors to households who would keep them up, and that it

could be the start of a program that other municipalities could mimic. Abby said that she would look into funding.

- **PA DEP Local Climate Action Plan and Mt. Lebanon Climate Action Plan.** Data collection is currently going on. Andrew reported that he did ask for data from the municipality and would like to begin creating a timeline. Abby stated that subgroups should be created so that ESB members could start working on various components of the CAP; she will begin creating an outline to share. Andrew would like to complete this by next year and told members to keep in mind that this project would need to be viable for the long term. Bonnie was asked to find out from the solicitor what size groups the ESB was permitted to have outside of meetings.
  - **EcoDistrict Update.** Andrew reported that he met with a leadership group to have a preliminary conversation, and planned to meet next week with Hussein (?), the former director of Millvale's program. The CAP will be the focal point of the framework for the EcoDistrict. Andrew questioned how the ESB could engage what others are doing in the community and what outside information we are collecting, i.e., how are building and embedding knowledge in policy? This will require strategic thinking.
  - **School Board Liaison Report.** None.
- **Adjournment.** Abby motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Tim, and unanimously approved by the members present.