



# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION MINUTES February 11 , 2015

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## Members Present

John Costello  
Shane Deyton  
Paul Judge  
Peter Heim  
Jakob Skowronski

Matt Wilson  
Eddie Dingler-Town Board  
Craig Culberson; Staff Liaison

## Members absent

Alan Bradford

Billy Wilson

Meeting started at 6:32 p.m.

### **Approval of January 14. Motion; John, second; Paul, Approved.**

Commissioner Dingler: Talked to Dick Poore about shelter and it is in the budget. EPC needs to get info for solar application and lighting. Alan sent out an email about shelter locations. Will the solar work on the location or do we need to find another location. Eddie to follow up with Ferguson Group.

Talk about rework of project.

Introduction of new members Matt Wilson and Peter Heim

Matt works in air quality for NCDEHNR and has worked in water resources and engineering.

Currently works in the Mooresville Office.

Peter solar guy. Moved from NY to NC wife's company relocated. Had worked in the area for solar projects. 7 years in solar.

Discussion on solar for a project. This is something that the EPC has wanted to do for several years.

Explanation of what is needed.

- Is the site a good solar resource? Does it have 6 hours of sunlight?
- Money: off the shelf or specific design for the project.
- How much electricity do you need for the structure? If more is produced than is needed, then it will need to be sold back.
- Power Company looks at solar over the course of a year. Even if the facility is not used every day you will generate power even when the facility is not being used. The excess is credits for the utility. It depends on how much solar you can actually put on the facility.

- How is the application done?
- Need a place to put the power back to Duke. Electrical service box and meter.

Hope Park may be an option as well.

There has also been discussion about a farm facility at the waste water plant. The thoughts on the initial project are to do something that has high visibility.

Need specific thoughts on costs for one location or the other. Peter can do a drive by look at both locations and give some feedback on both. Site survey: shading is there a way to put power back to the utility. Standalone system with batteries is also a possibility but it is the most expensive option. Power Company, by law must take power back. For larger projects the process may take up to 18 months. For small projects it should be quicker.

Paul: any vandalism concerns? Any time there is access, there is a possibility. Foul balls may be a issue if near baseball fields.

Panels can withstand large hail and wind.

New business: Are there other project ideas that the group would like to pursue?

Billy mentioned Lake Norman Wildlife Spring Fling April 18<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 4 pm at the Langtree Development. A variety of vendors and booths. Does the EPC wish to have a booth at this event to talk about some of the EPC initiatives. **ACTION ITEM.** If the EPC would like to participate, the committee needs to inform Billy Wilson of the intent and make sure that there are committee members who can be at the booth on the day of the event.

Storm drain marking projects. Staff person is Tara Groner. Kits are located at Town Hall. Need to be more overt at going out and soliciting volunteers to install markers in their subdivision, etc. Storm drain locations have not been GPSed. Would the EPC like to take a day to put some markers down to get the project going again? **ACTION ITEM** EPC needs to pick a date and time and a location to install some markers. There are some groups who want to do this when the weather gets warmer. The drains will be logged as they are marked.

There are other facets of the stormwater ordinance that will be discussed. There are some education opportunities that may be available to the EPC. Is there an age limit to who could volunteer? Adult supervision is needed because of the nature of the adhesive and the operation, but probably 10 or up would be fine.

This information should be sent out to HOAs.

Arbor Day celebration will need to be held in April. Typically the last Friday in April. Involvement with school class this year? This past year the town spent about \$5 per citizen on tree and landscaping or about \$192,000.

Free Library; boxes for trading out library books. There is at least one box in place already.

There was allocated money for the EPC making some boxes. In the next few weeks, there could be an opportunity to get some materials and build some boxes.

Dingler: have all the bike racks been installed. All the ones from the original order have been installed. The ordinance now requires bike rack installation.

Can the EPC provide trees? Yes, there is money designated for the EPC to spend. It can be used to donate trees if the committee wishes.

New ideas for projects:

Reusable shopping bags with EPC logo on them. Could be given out at events or sold inexpensively.

Permanent location for EPC news in the Town Voice. **FOLLOW UP** Craig talked to Kim Sellers and she stated that the EPC could provide her with several months of information and she would use them

each month (as space allowed) and then she would let the EPC know when more information was needed.

There are events pages in local newspapers that may be available. Channel 20 or Channel 4 may also be a possibility. Possibly put something on the Town website.

Can the EPC utilize the squirrel at events in conjunction with the fire department visits to schools, etc.?

Paul: Involvements in stream cleanups? Similar to street cleanups? A way to get the EPC name out as well as providing a service. Paul; cleanup along Lake Norman. Also creeks and streams. EPC could bring in other volunteer groups to do a project. Billy mentioned last month that he had a large volunteer group. Use of Town Voice. **UPDATE** Articles and information to for Town Voice must be submitted with at least one month lead time. longer if it is known, so space can be reserved. Earlier in the year may be better for stream cleanup due to critters that come out once it is warmer. Peter mentioned working along McCreary Creek. It is about a mile long.

Information about Poison Ivy and Poison Oak to distribute at events and during other functions.

John: possibility of a Dog Park or walking trails in town, marked off for use. Perhaps a mile or so. This may be a possibility of creating a downtown walk that is a marked trail and possibly QR codes to provide information about historic structures or locations and structures that are no longer in downtown.. The walk could be informative as well as providing exercise.

Another option is creating a fitness walk with QR code instructions for doing exercises during the walk. QR codes could be put on recycle bins in downtown to give information on environment and recycling.

**REMINDER:** if we want to advertise for Arbor Day in the April Town Voice it needs to be given to Kim soon.

QR codes need to be advertised so that folks know that they are there. The codes need to be emphasized to the public to get the best return. The information must have a place to “live” so that it can be accessed by someone’s phone. Alan has the know how to set this up.

Assignments:

A date for the EPC to go out and do some storm drain marking.

Can the EPC have space in Town Voice (see comment above)

Cost for reusable bags. Craig will check

Stream cleanup: Paul

North Main Park or Willow Valley for Solar: Peter

Spring Fling on April 18<sup>th</sup>: Billy to arrange. Are there any topics that cannot be at the booth?

Solar application kits: do we want to get something? Peter offered his daughters solar project to look at.

Do we have any “swag” to give out at events? We could get items with EPC logo. Paul mentioned seed packets. **ACTION ITEM** do we want to identify some specific items that the EPC would want to give out at events? Make a list so they can be researched.

Matt: is there a list of organizations that could be tapped into for help with the storm drain project? Churches, civic organizations. Etc. Chamber of Commerce has lists of businesses and non-profits. Chamber sends out a monthly newsletter.

**Motion to Adjourn: Motion; Paul, second; Jakob**

Meeting adjourned at 7:38