

WNEAC Meeting Minutes—April 6, 2022

Attendees: EAC: Donna Suevo, Shari Donath, Sue Devenny, Richard Cole, Barbara Pollarine;
Commissioners: Anne Pavone and Roseanne Milazzo; and 9 additional township residents

-This meeting was open to the public as the EAC hosted a guest speaker from PennEnvironment to discuss the benefits of a possible plastic bag ban in the township. The guest was Faran Savitz, Zero Waste Advocate. PennEnvironment is a non-profit organization working on various environmental issues. This organization has been involved in recent plastic bag ban ordinances in local communities near West Norriton, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. For more information about all this group is doing to improve and advocate for Pennsylvania's environment, you can visit their website at pennenvironment.org.

-Presentation covered the damage to the environment from plastic bags including water ways, drinking water, air pollution, etc. Faran presented a number of statistics regarding these issues. In addition, he discussed how communities have approached plastic bag bans, how communities have worked with local government and businesses to develop a ban that fits the communities and business needs.

-Question and answer session followed the formal presentation. Community members and several township commissioners attended.

-The group agreed that the WNEAC should do more research and recommend a process to engage and educate the public and business owners about harms to health and the environment from single use plastic bags. Group also recommended that the EAC should contact communities that have instituted bag bans about their process and ordinances.

-Richard Cole will be sending information to the township commissioners about ordinances in nearby communities and the benefits of instituting a plastic bag ban.

Next meeting: May 4, 2022 at 7 pm