

**Springettsbury Township  
Recycling Committee**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**April 9, 2019**

**ATTENDEES**

Charles Stuhre, Chairman; Penny Dellinger; Abby Gibb, Township Representative; Guests Mr. and Mrs. Fegely and son Danny.

The first item discussed was how we can approach recycling in a different way. Due to the changes in the industry as of July 2018 many previously recyclable items which were collected curbside now are not being collected due to market changes and instead are put in the trash. Some changes that residents can make to help with this issue is in the area of reducing material that would now otherwise be placed in the waste stream. One example would be for residents to subscribe to E-magazines instead of getting the printed non-collectable issues. Another would be to use refillable water bottles instead of purchasing bottled water. It is a cost savings as well as water from the tap (which can also be filtered for taste) costs about \$.007 per gallon. The third suggestion would be to ask waiters in restaurants to not give out plastic straws if you don't need them. This last issue brings up an item discussed later in the meeting.

Next it was discussed and will be noted in the Township newsletter what residents can do with household tires. York County Solid Waste Authority will have a Free Tire Acceptance Program for York County residents when tires can be dropped off at the Authority. The drop-off dates are between April 22 and May 17. Residents are to contact Mindy Waltemyer at the Authority to register for the program.

The Committee recently received a letter from 10-year-old resident, Danny Fegely, who attends East York Elementary School in the York Suburban School District. He expressed concern about his school's lunch room not recycling items which are recyclable. He wanted to know what his school's recycling policies are and if the Committee could advise as to what could be done about this issue. The Township Manager was given a copy of his letter and he will be meeting with a representative of the school district about another matter and said that he would also discuss the student's concerns. The Committee expressed also that the school district would be limited in their recycling by what their trash and recycling hauler allows but perhaps more can be done.

Another concern that Danny had was in the use of plastic straws that are given out in restaurants and that are then thrown out, never reused, and that can then get into ocean water by some who throw trash directly into the ocean where they can cause a lot of damage to marine life. He said that the town of Narberth, PA has enacted legislation banning the

distribution of plastic drinking straws unless requested by a disabled customer. They also are placing a fee on plastic shopping bags. He felt that our township should be doing that as well. The Township Manager in a written response to Danny explained that banning plastic straws was up to the Board of Supervisors to consider enacting and that he would share Danny's letter with the Board for their consideration. The Committee did let Danny know that in York County all trash except large items is burned at the County incinerator which then generates electricity from the process. None of that material in our Township would be dumped into the ocean.

Danny was commended for his concerns for our environment and for his suggestions in bringing about solutions. The Committee advised Danny to check back with the Township to see what the responses were to his concerns.

The date of April 14, 2020 at the time of 6:00 p.m. has been set for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Dellinger