



# Board of Supervisors

## Regular Meeting

### Minutes

425 Wells Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
215-348-9915

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Tuesday May 21, 2024

7:00 PM

Community Meeting Room

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**Board Members in attendance:** Jennifer V. Herring, Chairman; Barbara N. Lyons, Vice Chairman; Nancy Santacecilia; Dan Wood; Judy Dixon.

**Township Staff in attendance:** Stephanie J. Mason, Township Manager; Dave Tomko, Director of Operations; Andrea Susten, Assistant Township Manager; Chief Dean Logan; Sean Torpey, Township Engineer and Michael Clarke, Solicitor.

### 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

#### Pledge to the flag

Ms. Herring stated that we had an urgent matter to add to the tonight under Director of Operations – Community Recreation Center – Distribution of Topsoil & Fill to Bike/Hike Project Shady Retreat Road – Safe Routes to School. She asked for a motion to add this item to the agenda. On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the item was added to the agenda.

#### Public Comment Agenda Items Only

##### Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance

Marianne Davies stated that while she commended the Board for being good stewards of the environment, she feels it is better to ask the Township residents to voluntarily or an incentive program rather than this. Reading the Ordinance, it falls on the businesses she feels the .15c mandatory charge will be a great inconvenience on small businesses. Most small businesses preorder paper bags with their logo, she showed some examples of these types of bags that would not be permitted under the ordinance.

Joanne Bear, Warrington Township resident, small business owner Doylestown Township stated that her concern is that she is a small business owner in Barn Plaza and just heard about this ordinance and that none of the businesses in Barn Plaza were contacted. This will affect their businesses, they are struggling with inflation, trying to keep their staff. She feels that the Board is not protecting the small business owners, the way she is protecting her employees. She feels that the Township should be more of a partner with the small business owners. She does not want to charge her customers, nor do her customers want this charge. She would like to have a voice and be asked for her opinion. Please hold off on this vote tonight. Ms. Lyons asked if her objection to the ordinance is the upcharge of .15c but other than that if she was generally speaking okay with it? Ms. Bear stated that generally speaking she was.

Ms. Santacecilia inquired if all those bags that Ms. Davies showed would be banned?

Dr. Baldassarre, Chairman of the EAC stated that he has a brief presentation later in the meeting, but the paper bags shown would not be banned, plastic bags would be banned. The proposal is there would be a charge for the paper bags, unless someone brought a reusable bag. Paper handled bags would not be banned.

Ms. Herring stated that she is taking down all of the comments and later on in the agenda she will be asking those questions of Dr. Baldassarre.

Rick Gaver, former Supervisor, and resident feels that this is just a feel-good ordinance. The ordinance states that single use plastic bags are blocking storm drains, he feels this is a minor problem. He checked out some storm drains, the first drain had three water bottles, the second drain had a large red Dixie plastic cup, the third drain had sticks and grass clippings, no plastic bags in any of the storm drains he checked out. 30 years ago, we started a recycling program to do away with paper bags to save trees, now we are going backwards by doing away with plastics and killing more trees. He takes exception to the misnomer single-use plastic bags, he uses these bags multiple times. Plastic bags may not readily decompose but it will take forever for reusable bags made of

polyurethane to decompose. He feels that the Township should remove plastic bags from the dog park as they are definitely single-use plastic bags.

Bill Lahr, resident stated that he has a home in North Myrtle Beach and two year ago, they had a fundraiser and the city distributed reusable bags that said compliments of the city of North Myrtle Beach the funds came from the business and to this day is still working successfully. He wanted to give the Board that idea.

Donna Shannon, Chalfont resident, reuses her bags, she was raised to conserve our natural resources. How do you pick up dog poop with a paper bag? New Jersey banned all bags and she had to make multiple trips to her car, very unfriendly. She does not want Doylestown to be an unfriendly place. Paper bags were banned to save trees now we're bringing them back.

Paul Weinstein, resident stated that he is in support of the single use plastic bag ordinance, he thinks it is a great idea. He has been using reusable bags for 40 years, it just takes remembering. We have a crisis with plastics contaminating our environment. He applauds the Board for drafting the ordinance.

Denise Glick, resident stated plastic bags have been a problem for a long time, 50 years since they were invented. Reusable bags are so easy, just get used to it and do the world a favor.

Ed Sheppard, resident he is personally against the plastic bag ban. We are not the first place to propose this ban on plastic bags. He works with a lot of seniors, plastic bags reduce the amount of infection from food poisoning to almost zero levels, all places that have instituted these bans the rate of food poisoning skyrockets in kids and seniors with weakened immune systems.

#### Traffic Calming Turk Road

Heather Schroeder, resident is excited to hear of the meeting with Warrington Township regarding Traffic Calming on Turk Road. She knows the police officers are not allowed to use speed radars, her neighbors and herself purchased a speed gun, the speeding within one half hour everyone was in the 50's, the speed limit is 35. She knows this is going to be addressed but as a resident she doesn't feel she should be doing this; the safety issues have been noted and should be addressed. The truck signs that were taken down have increased the Mac trucks tenfold. She wants the truck signs back up and ban the trucks. Ms. Herring stated that there is a meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to bring together all parties together. Ms. Schroeder inquired if Warrington would be in attendance, if so, who? Ms. Mason stated that the date has been confirmed with Warrington Township, we do not know who from Warrington will be available to attend the meeting at this time.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM.
- B. The Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors and Finance Committee will hold a Budget Work Session on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 5PM.
- C. The Doylestown Township Municipal Building will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2024 for Memorial Day.
- D. The Doylestown Township Veterans Advisory Committee will participate with a Township truck and banners in the Memorial Day Parade in Doylestown Borough on Monday, May 27, 2024.
- E. The Local Traffic Advisory Committee (LTAC) will hold a Turk Road Traffic Calming Kick Off Meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7PM at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.
- F. Thompson Performing Arts Series at the C&N Amphitheater in Central Park. Kicks off with Bigg Romeo on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>! The series continues for 12 weeks bringing music to Central Park throughout the summer! Sign up for E-News at [www.doylestownpa.org](http://www.doylestownpa.org) for lineup of weekly performers and parking information.

\*Ms. Lyons stated that the Penn Community Bank is sponsoring the Special Olympics of Bucks County Bocce Courts in Central Park, Penn Community Bank will hold their Community Day of Service on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2PM, everyone is invited. The Special Olympics Team will be teaching everyone how to play Bocce. in the event of rain there will be lots of activities inside.

- G. Join in the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Native Plant Garden in Central Park by attending a Garden Party hosted by the Environmental Advisory Council. The event will be held on Saturday, June 22, from 10 – 1 pm. Enjoy hands on educational opportunities, environmental crafts, live music, and botanical refreshments all while surrounded by the garden! We hope to see you there! Parking will be available at Kutz Elementary School. \*A video was shown inviting all to join the events at the Native Plant Garden\*
- H. National Night Out – Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 4 – 8PM - Central Park – Free Community Event! – Mark your calendar, you don't want to miss this Family Fun Event!
- I. Keep up to date with Township News / Events – sign up for E-news at [www.doylestownpa.org](http://www.doylestownpa.org). E-News is sent out every Friday at 4:00PM.

### MINUTES APPROVAL

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the minutes of the April 2, 2024 Budget Work Session were approved. The motion carried 5 – 0

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood, the minutes of the April 2, 2024 Regular Meeting were approved with the following amendment. Ms. Lyons asked that the Members of the Board of Supervisors should be added to the minutes. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Ms. Dixon asked that it be noted that during the minute approval Ms. Santacecilia asked that the minutes reflect her statement on the South Easton Road Connector Trail that said only 5% of the residents use the trails. Ms. Santacecilia stated that 5% are bikers. Ms. Dixon stated that to her knowledge there is no study to determine the percentage of residents. Mr. Wood stated that the minutes reflect what was spoken not what's true. Mr. Clarke stated that the amendment that Ms. Lyons is offering is a correct amendment, it is something that should be reflected. The amendment being discussed right now was not discussed at the last meeting. We won't amend the minutes; your comments will be in next month's minutes. Ms. Santacecilia stated that before Ms. Dixon was on the Board there was a report that came through about trails, specifically it said that only 5% of our bikers use those trails, these studies may have been retired. Ms. Dixon stated that she asked Mr. Kelso, the Bike/Hike Committee and Administration, for those numbers, she knows she cannot correct that at this point, it is not an accurate number, and it poorly reflects on the usage of our trails. She would love to see that study or where that information is from, otherwise it does look like a fact. She would like it noted that there was no study.

### CORRESPONDENCES

Ms. Herring stated that we received an email regarding another municipality's Puppy Mill Ordinance.

Ms. Herring stated that we received an email regarding 202 Parkway Bike Lanes. This email was shared with the Bike/Hike Committee at their meeting this morning.

Ms. Dixon read the Bike/Hike Committee recommendation regarding PennDOT 202 Parkway request. They commend PennDOT for their expressed concern for the safety of bicyclists. They encourage PennDOT to bolster safety mechanisms, including effective and maintained barriers for car traffic in problem areas, the Capacity of the trail is adequate for safe use by cyclists and pedestrians, strengthening PennDOT's options for alternatives to on road cycling. The Bike/Hike Committee asks for additional time for continued discussion for specific solutions in lieu of the removal of the cycling insignia on the roadway. Mr. Wood stated that the Bike/Hike Committee has discussed on-road bike trails and the safety of the bike rider in the past, whether on-road or on the bike trail. Increase the safety of the dedicated trails. This item was tabled until the June 18, 2024 or later Board of Supervisors meeting.

Ms. Mason shared a letter from Ms. Mulkerin stating the Doylestown Township was in receipt of a TASA Grant in the amount of \$700,000 for the South Easton Road Trail (Township to Borough). This trail will now be 100% funded for construction.

**REPORTS**Solicitor

None

Township Engineer

None

Police Chief

Chief Logan stated that several months ago the police department recognized a group of officers for a couple of different incidents over a two-month period and an individual officer for a single incident. We often go a long time without recognizing officers and the amount of work they actually put in. Yesterday afternoon along the Ferry Rd Corridor during the heat there was an incident that started as a suspicious person and escalated to a mental health or medical emergency. Once again, we had multiple agencies coming into Doylestown Township to assist Bucks County Sheriff, Bucks County Park Rangers, New Britain Township and Central Bucks Regional. We have a great relationship with these agencies, and it is great to see the level of cooperation. Back in August Central Bucks Police through a partnership with the Police Foundation and Smith Marine, they produced a Can-Am off-road side by side, this was quickly utilized yesterday afternoon to go out into the field and cross streams and located the individual that was in a medical emergency. He wanted to recognize the level of cooperations and partnership we have in the Central Bucks Community.

Dir. of OperationsCommunity Recreation Center & Park Improvements – Skepton Change Order #03

Per the contract Skepton Construction was supposed to supply two items, one was for the kitchen vent hood and the second was for the building dedication plaque. The Township will supply kitchen vent hood and the building dedication plaque to the contractor to install. We will receive a credit back from the contractor totaling \$9,700.00. We will still be purchasing the items but feel we can do it cheaper. He is asking the Board's approval of Skepton Construction Changer Order #3, credit of \$9,700.00.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Santacecilia, the Board accepted Skepton Change Order #3. The motion carried 5 – 0.

2024 Culvert Repair Project

Mr. Tomko stated that annually structure repairs inspections are done by Pennoni as part of their services, they identify repairs that need to be made. Two culverts were identified as in need of repair, one is a bridge at the intersection of Edison Rd. and Quarry Rd. The box culvert on Sauerman Rd. between Easton Rd. and Turk Rd. The bid additionally included alternate for the Bike/Hike Trail pipe repairs behind the Doylestown Executive Quarters. We received the bids which were opened on May 15<sup>th</sup>, three bids were received, upon review by Pennoni it is their recommendation that we award the base bid which is the two culvert repairs to G & B Construction Group for the total of \$263,023.00. The alternate will not be awarded at this time and will be rebid as the bid was too high for our budget. He is asking for the Board's approval of G & B Construction Group's proposal.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood, the Board approved the acceptance of G & B Construction Group's proposal. The motion carried 5 – 0

Community Recreation Center – Distribution of Topsoil & Fill to Bike/Hike Project Shady Retreat Road-Safe Routes to School

Mr. Tomko stated that this item is an amendment to the agenda. He stated that the Community Recreation Center Project is moving forward removing dirt, carving out a building pad and the courts. We have a lot of extra dirt, topsoil and fill material. As part of the Shady Retreat Safe Routes to School Project we have need of fill dirt, the plan is to take the fill from one site and give it to the other. I asked for this addition because we're trying to start moving that dirt this week and are working with PennDOT to obtain their approval since it will be part of the PennDOT Safe Routes to School Project. He asked the Board to allow this Borrow and/or Waste Agreement, waste is another term for fill and execute this agreement between the Township and Marino Construction that we are allowing them to take this fill material from the Community Recreation Center site and give it to the

Bike/Hike Project. If for some reason we can't move this material, he will come back and ask the Board for a waiver of one ordinance because this material may have to go outside the limits of Township.

Ms. Lyons inquired if this is clean fill all organic rocks and stones? Mr. Tomko stated that yes, it is. There are no building materials in this, it is all clean fill.

Mr. Clarke stated that since this item was added to the agenda at the start of this meeting, if anyone has any comments on this item, you may do so now. There were no comments or questions.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Santacecilia, the Board approved the agreement. The motion carried 5 – 0.

#### Township Manager

Countywide Act 167 Plan Update – Formation of Watershed Planning Advisory Committee -Seeking authorization from Board of Supervisors to participate and designate a Township representative.

Ms. Mason stated that the Bucks County Planning Commission will be working on Countywide ACT 167 Plan Update and the formation of a Watershed Planning Advisory Committee. The letter was sent to municipal managers. She or a designee from her staff will be participating, because it entails ACT 167 and MS4, if we need assistance from our consultants, either Ms. Goldstein from Gilmore or Mr. Torpey from Pennoni, we will ask them to assist us. Ms. Mason asked if the Board has any concerns or questions.

Mr. Wood inquired if they asked for an expert if it was going to be Township staff where they need a Board member to be part of it, but it sounds like it's just Township staff. Ms. Mason stated that it is Township staff and professionals.

#### Vehicle to Auction

Ms. Mason stated that we have a 2006 Chevy Tahoe with over 79,000 miles to go to the J J Kane auction – public auction held June 11<sup>th</sup>.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood, the Board agreed to send the 2006 Chevy Tahoe to auction. The motion carried 5 – 0.

#### Supervisors

Ms. Herring – Recognized the month of May as Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish Heritage Month. She stated that one of the Township's oldest institutions Delaware Valley University was founded by a Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf, from Prussia, he has a stunning library at the university, it is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, she believes they just received a fairly large endowment for it, congratulations. She wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and Happy Juneteenth.

Ms. Herring stated that she is presenting the Doylestown Township Human Relations Ordinance, the purpose of this ordinance is twofold. First is to establish civil rights protections at the municipal level for specific protected classes, the protections are against discrimination due to actual or perceived race, color, religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, disability or use of guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness or physical disability of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animal or because of an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. These protections would relate to employment, housing, commercial property, and public accommodations this is particularly important because of explicit protections for LGBTQ people have eluded the Commonwealth since their first attempt to include them as explicitly as a protected class since 1976. If the Commonwealth is not going to codify these protections in state law, she believes it is contingent upon us to do so in order to provide more steadfast protections than we have currently. Secondly, this ordinance will provide for a commission to help enforce these protections, they'll be tasked with investigating any complaints, either referring the complaint to another agency or mediating the complaint themselves. It is her belief that as critical as this is for protections of our community this role of HRC will not be the most prominent. The second role of the HRC, which she is very interested in, will be to educate and advise. Each of us brings our life experiences with us to help shape our decisions, there are parts of our community that are underrepresented, and she believes will benefit us if they had a seat at the table. She believes we do a wonderful job at the Township ensuring accessibility for those who are disabled, she believes having someone who can speak on their personal experiences would help us understand how we can make the Township more accessible. Last year, a young man with spina bafta came to us regarding roadways and how important maintained roads are for those in wheelchairs. The EAC reached out to the Lenape Nation for help with the

Recognition Garden to insure we honored the native people with proper signage. She believed having this committee would allow for these types of underrepresented voices to be heard.

Ms. Herring made the motion to advertise the Doylestown Township Human Relations Ordinance with the following changes; the word for handicap and variance be changed to disability or its equivalent; on page under employment the word he be changed to the person for consistency.

Ms. Lyons knows that Ms. Herring is passionate about the Human Relations Commission and creating one for Doylestown Township, she feels it needs a lot of attention, she feels it is important that we give that due attention at another date. Ms. Lyons moved that this be table at this time, we have a very long agenda, and this is a meaty ordinance, and she has a lot of concerns, she feels it needs to be its own agenda item perhaps at the next meeting. Ms. Lyons moved to table this item; Ms. Santacecilia seconded the motion to table as she had a lot of questions as well. She commends Ms. Herring for this, she believes everyone should feel safe and not be discriminated against. She agrees with Ms. Lyons that there is a lot to this, definitions, the way the commission is made up residents and non-residents, the impact, secondary organizations like schools, the hospital. She feels a conversation with the Board so all can understand how this would actually work.

Mr. Clarke stated that there is a motion to table and a second protocol is to call for a vote on this motion without any further discussion. If the motion to table passes it will be tabled to a future meeting. If it does not, at that point we would see if there were a second to Ms. Herring's motion to advertise and proceed with discussion and a vote.

The motion to table failed 2 – 3 with Ms. Herring, Ms. Dixon, and Mr. Wood voting Nay.

Mr. Clarke called for a second to Ms. Herring's motion, Ms. Dixon seconded the motion to advertise the Doylestown Township Human Relations Ordinance. The motion carried 3 – 2 with Ms. Lyons and Ms. Santacecilia voting Nay.

Ms. Lyons stated that she likes the idea, but this ordinance has a lot of problems with it, she has a lot of concerns of how it is written, and she thinks it could cause more problems for our residents who anticipate or expect something to be done, should they have a problem that the Human Relations Commission would address and then have it not be addressed. This ordinance is complicated, how would it function, there will be a lot of administration and staff time involved and it doesn't have any enforcement powers. Someone could bring a complaint but the person who offended that person does not have to answer, stopping it in with no resolution, this will not function the way it is crafted. Commissions are not committees, they are not temporary boards or ad hoc they are legislative, they have specific rules, specific set up and ministration, the rules must be followed so that the commission operations equally applied. She thinks we can educate and advise and do more without having a commission in place. She stated that when you create legislation one of the important things is that you have to identify the need, for example, Single-use Plastics Ordinance that is in front of us tonight. It identifies 14 reasons why the single use plastic bag ordinance is necessary. She knows that there is discrimination, but she does not see how a commission in Doylestown Township is going help that when we don't see in front of us the people who will come to us with a problem and when they come to us, we have no mechanism of helping them.

Ms. Herring stated that there are about 70 different Municipal HRC's in the Commonwealth. These ordinances are created similarly, and they have been around in some cases since early 2000's, she has no doubt that these are commission that function.

Ms. Santacecilia stated that it states a minimum of three residents on the commission, who are the other people that could be on there? Could they live in Philadelphia and work in Doylestown? She doesn't believe we have any other committees that don't have Doylestown residents, is that correct? Ms. Mason stated that we do have other committees with non-residents: Dog Park, TAB, Bike/Hike have residents and non-residents, Ms. Santacecilia asked why we would open it up to people outside of Doylestown residents?

Ms. Herring stated that as a Board we would be interviewing these people for placement, she would place a priority on being a resident. Ms. Santacecilia asked if this would supersede the policies of Central Bucks School District, Delaware Valley University, the hospital, these are all big employers in Doylestown Township. Under

definitions genetic identification, she believes that Pennsylvania act is for health insurance. She stated that Pennsylvania has a Human Rights Act and a Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in Harrisburg, they encourage Townships to have their own HRC. She is not against doing this but there are a lot of pieces that are not clear. She feels the Township could be in the middle of a lawsuit.

Ms. Herring stated that there are a couple of problems she sees. The first is that people who are being discriminated against often will not come forward. She believes our community is a good community, but there is discrimination, we have seen it in this community. We can help resolve some of these issues and help our community. Ms. Lyons stated that she agrees with her, a commission is not necessary. Ms. Herring stated that she feels having an official seat at the table for people is an important one. She has seen it work at other municipalities, if somebody has a complaint against their employer, they will come to the commission give the information about the complaint, the commission will investigate and speak with both parties, try to get a consensus on what to do moving forward, if there is no consensus then these committee members are trained to refer them to other organizations. Ms. Santacecilia stated that she is afraid this commission will take our trained police officers out of the equation. Mr. Clarke stated that this ordinance would have nothing to do with criminal activities. If a crime is committed that is within the Police Department and District Attorney's jurisdiction. These ordinances are meant to address if somebody feels they are being discriminated against in housing, employment, or some other manner. As for Central Bucks School District and Delaware Valley University, they already have up-to-date anti-discrimination policies in place. This wouldn't change their policies that are in line with the current state of the law.

There was continued discussion on the wording of the proposed ordinance, it could involve perception of one party as being offensive or discrimination when no offense was intended, under this ordinance it can be acted upon. Perception does not have to be proven; you only have to prove discrimination. Ordinances are provided to the Board prior to the meeting to the Board in their packet, advertising gives the community an opportunity to take a look at the ordinance and decide if they need or want to come to the next meeting to let their position be known. All discussion is meant for the public, nothing is discussed behind closed doors. Mr. Wood inquired what is the Townships responsibility if the mediation fails and it goes to the Court of Common Pleas in Bucks County are we required to send someone as a representative, documentation we have to provide? The HRC would help to facilitate a resolution between the parties. Mr. Clarke stated once it is completed through the Township process, any next step they choose to take, it will start from the beginning. Ms. Herring stated that if they choose to have an outside mediator instead of the HRC the cost would be paid by the parties. Ms. Santacecilia stated that the Borough has had an HRC since 2024, she doesn't believe they have ever had a complaint. Would this impact on the use of bathrooms are public accommodations? Mr. Clarke stated that this impacts anyone who believes they have been discriminated against in employment, business accommodation or housing accommodations. We will not be telling everyone what their policy regarding bathrooms needs to be, however, bathrooms are public accommodations. Ms. Dixon stated that she is glad that Doylestown Township is protecting people who feel they may be discriminated against and have a local venue to go to. She would like to move this forward.

Ms. Lyons – showed the Capital Campaign Video created by the Capital Campaign Committee and the Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB) to raise funds to build the Community Recreation Center and other Park Improvements. Ms. Lyons stated that we are raising money, we need everybody's help and the full support of the Board. You can donate by going to our website [www.doylestownpa.org](http://www.doylestownpa.org).

Ms. Dixon – EAC Native Plant Guidance – information will be coming to residents who have signed up for E-news (delivered to your email every Friday at 4PM). Residents of Doylestown Township can sign up for guidance on native plant selections, enhancing biodiversity in your garden, plant placement and maintenance. She also wanted to remind drivers to share the road in this good weather, cyclists are only 4' from your car and please yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk to ensure everyone a healthy and safe summer.

Ms. Santacecilia – thanked Ms. Herring for allowing time for the Board to talk about the HRC. She thanked Chris Suessenguth, Chair of our Veterans Advisory Committee (VAC) who will be leading Doylestown Memorial Day Parade, a highlight for so many people. She thanked Ms. Dixon for the information on the Native Plants, she has been cleaning out her beds accordingly. She shared opposition on the Single-Use Plastics Ordinance, what she is

concerned about in the ordinance. She believes the community wants to protect our environment, she would like it mirror Doylestown Borough's Ordinance, feels it will hurt small businesses requiring them to charge a minimum of .15c per bag, this will discourage people from shopping in the Township. We are not being retail business friendly, that's not the intent of EAC nor the Board. She does not feel that the ordinance should require our Code Enforcement Officer to enforce it or give out fines. She feels this will be adding things to our staff and administration, no use taxpayer dollars. Mr. Clarke stated that the police department handles public safety the code department handles violations of the Township Codes. Ms. Santacecilia stated that Plumstead Township has a Go Green effort, they have a Go Green business reusable bag initiative, there's sponsorships involved, name on the bags, several options and working together with the businesses. (Exhibit A) She is going to ask the Board to table the vote and rethink the way the ordinance is written. She also provided an email from a resident sent to the Board regarding the Township plastic bag ban, she would like the Board to educate people about drop off locations and to not put plastic bags in the trash. (Exhibit B)

Mr. Wood – stated that he will save his thoughts on the plastic bags ordinance for that discussion in the meeting. The Planning Commission, the proposed car wash along 611 and the plan for affordable housing for Veterans and Seniors both are moving along as well. Thanks to the Veterans Committee for representing Doylestown Township in the Memorial Day Parade, as a longtime resident he now enjoys the parade with his son. He was hoping to go to the EAC event for the Native Plant Garden, but he will be visiting family. Please go check it out, the dedication of the volunteers is incredible.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearings – Ordinances – Chapter 93 Open Burning; Chapter 94 Fire Prevention; Chapter 101 Green Points Program; Chapter 110 Move-In Permit; Chapter 145 Soil & Erosion; Chapter 148 Stormwater Management; Chapter 153 Electric Vehicles; Chapter 170 Water; Chapter 172 Wells; Chapter 175 Backyard Poultry; Chapter 151 Streets and Sidewalks; Chapter 139 Single Use Plastic Bags

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon the Ordinance Hearing/Vote for Chapter 153 Electric Vehicles and Chapter 175 Backyard Poultry were tabled until the next Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, June, 18, 2024 at 7:00PM. The motion carried 5 – 0.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood the motion to approve the following Ordinances Chapter 93 Open Burning; Chapter 94 Fire Prevention; Chapter 101 Green Points Program; Chapter 110 Move-In Permit; Chapter 145 Soil & Erosion; Chapter 148 Stormwater Management; Chapter 170 Water; Chapter 172 Wells and Chapter 151 Streets and Sidewalks. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Chapter 139 Single Use Plastic Bags – Dr. Baldassarre, Chair of EAC showed a Power Point presentation giving the background of single use plastics. Single Use Plastics are not biodegradable, most are not recycled, shipped to Asia, end up dumped in the oceans, toxic micro that particles humans and animals ingest and breath in, they did a large community outreach in 2018-2019, web based community survey were there was 70% support for single uses plastic bag ban prior to COVID, resolution in the Township for voluntary reduction of single use plastics was passed, they did a door to door business survey in 2022, sent letters to restaurants in 2022. There is a six-month period before implementation to give store owners time to use their stock of plastic bags. Reusable bags are described as having sewn on handles and they need to be sturdy. Paper bags will not be banned. The .15c fee is to help the vendor defray the cost of the bags, this is not a tax. (Exhibit C)

#### Questions/Comments

Marianne Davies – resident – none of the bags that she brought as examples fit the criteria, so retailers would not be able to use them. Will you ask the effected retailers in the Township to show you that the bags they will have to sell meet the criteria? Dr. Baldassarre stated that all of the 29 municipalities are providing bags which meet the criteria, they are not hard to find. As for enforcement, it is not his expectation that Mr. Salisbury is going to go out



and police every merchant in the Township, this will be a matter of self-policing or complaints by residents who find businesses willfully not complying. He feels that this will be a passive kind of enforcement.

Mr. Wood inquired that the EAC proposed giving out free reusable bags as part of their budget. Giant was giving out reusable bags this weekend and he believes they were given out at National Night Out. There are places to get these bags. Dr. Baldassarre stated that EAC have actually purchased reusable cloth bags, he believes they will be giving some away at the Garden Party. Ms. Lyons supports the ordinance but believes it is overreach for us to require retailers to charge .15c, she wouldn't want local government to interfere with business. Ms. Davies asked does this ban include the bags given in the hospital emergency room or in school nurses offices where soiled clothing could be involved. Mr. Clarke stated that those types of bags would not be banned. Mr. Wood stated that he mentioned that several times as a concern, he doesn't want those bags banned.

Ms. Herring mentioned the concern brought up about disease of infection spread with these bags. She asked Dr. Baldassarre if he had seen any indication that this was happening. Dr. Baldassarre stated that no he has not, if a reusable bag is dirty, it can be put in the washing machine.

Beth Snyder – lives in Borough but her office is in the Township had a few comments. People pay to be a member of Costco; they are paying for the privilege of not being given bags. She feels it makes sense to have a fee, businesses are charging if you use a credit card, people have gotten past that. McCaffrey's gives a .05c credit if you bring your own bag, she sees people still walking out with plastic bags. A reward is not enough to change behavior. She feels that people return to their cars to get the bags if there is at .15c charge. People will continue to go to the stores and not discourage them from buying locally. Ms. Santacecilia stated that a lot of seniors have stopped going to ACME and are going to Weis because they give plastic bags at no charge. Ms. Snyder stated that the point is we have to stop this behavior. The cost of the bags is not cheap, why not let the store owner recoup the cost? Ms. Santacecilia stated that it is expensive to live in Doylestown, the .15c may seem minuscule to you but we have to remember every resident's affordability and be business friendly. Ms. Snyder stated that if they bring their own bags, it doesn't cost them anything. We have to create the concept that there has to be a different way, whether it is making their own bags or getting them for free.

Joanne Bear, Warrington Township resident, small business owner Doylestown Township stated that she hires people from our community and makes sure she works with the community, and she gives back to the community. This .15c may not be important for Costco, Wises and Wegmans, but for it is for a small business owner. People will start shopping online and increase our carbon footprint. The business owners would be open to conversation, she went door to door to every business before she came tonight, none of them knew about this. Ms. Snyder inquired how the .15c was determined and why is it that the Borough doesn't charge? Dr. Baldassarre stated that the Borough doesn't charge because many were already giving paper bags and didn't want to ask customers to pay for something they were already getting for free. The .15c fee was the point where people started moving toward reusable bags, a lesser fee people will just pay. Ms. Santacecilia asked Dr. Baldassarre where he got his sources. Heidi Schiever – resident and EAC, Vice Chair – stated that the packet was provided to the Board in 2018/2019 with pages and pages of information, resources, and references. Ms. Santacecilia inquired for this ordinance, was there a specific source used? Dr. Baldassarre stated that this ordinance was based on a model ordinance from Penn Environmental, it is the same ordinance of the 29 jurisdictions he listed earlier, the fees vary. Peder Cox – resident, stated that he has no problem with banning plastic bags. Lived all over the world where the amount of trash is obscene, and they have damaged multi-million-dollar warships. He has no problem with requiring recyclable bags, the problem is dictating to the business owners that they must charge, it should read you are authorized to charge. Give them the option. Paper will dissolve, plastic does not.

Ed Sheppard the .15c fee is to encourage reusable bags, he has lift restrictions, he goes to Weis because that is the only place to go to buy food and carry the bag outside. He can't carry a paper bag; he can't carry a reusable bag. What sort of accommodation for people protected by the ADA, we can't all use those bags, physically unable. You are trying to create a Human Relations Ordinance, a complaint against Doylestown Township could occur using the Human Relations Ordinance. It doesn't appear to be any ADA exceptions; did you consider the ADA when creating this? Dr. Baldassarre stated that he is not clear why he could carry a single use bag but not a reusable bag. Mr. Sheppard stated because it has handles and he can keep it under 10lbs, he stated paper bags do not have handles. Dr. Baldassarre stated that he could do that with a reusable bag as well. We are encouraging you

to use reusable bags with handles. Mr. Clarke stated that there are no ADA implications of this ordinance. Ms. Santacecilia stated that some businesses may not give out bags at all, Mr. Sheppard would not have an option. Mr. Clarke stated that Mr. Sheppard's option would be to have a bag that he is capable of carrying. That would be his accommodation, having a bag he can carry. If the bags are too heavy, respectfully only put in the weight you can carry. Mr. Sheppard also inquired about the energy use to clean the reusable bags.

Dr. Baldassarre stated he uses reusable bags constantly, clean them if they appear to be dirty, throw them into the washer, it doesn't require much more than that. Dr. Baldassarre stated that as a physician of infectious diseases he is not aware of any outbreaks of any kind associated with the use of reusable bags. The risk is extremely low. Mr. Wood commented that he does road cleanups on Edison Furlong and Turk Rds. He has pulled so many plastic bags off the street and out of storm drains along with other items. What is stressing him out is the .15c fee. His biggest concern while the intention is to get people to use reusable bags, an unintended hardship for our residents at .15c a bag. A vast majority of the ordinance provided by the EAC were charging .10c bag fee. He understands the desire to help offset the cost, but he would like to see if the charge could be reduced to either .05c or .10c to try to offset the costs. This ordinance does not address online pickup delivery options in the case of online ordering customers will not be given the opportunity to use reusable bags, they will be forced to pay that fee. If we pass this ordinance, he would like to amend this ordinance to at the very least follow Pittsburgh's model excluding pickup and looking into excluding delivery. While getting single use plastic bags out of circulation he has a concern about paper bags, he would like to address this in the future since it's a 180-day implementation and it doesn't need to be in the ordinance tonight. He would like to discuss the possibility of lowering the fee tonight to .05c or .10c a bag would be fine, obviously he would rather the lower cost. Ms. Lyons and Ms. Herring agreed with Mr. Wood that going to charge .05c would be easier to swallow. Mr. Wood asked Mr. Clarke if they lowered the fee, would it require a readvertisement or can we go ahead with it as is? Mr. Clarke does not believe it would require advertising if you lowered the fee from .15c to .10c or .05c. To eliminate the fee entirely would require readvertising.

On motion of Ms. Dixon, seconded by Ms. Lyons, the board approved and amended the Chapter 139 Single Use Plastic Bags Ordinance with a change to .05c bag fee. The motion carried 4 -1 with Ms. Santacecilia voting Nay, citing the use of Code Enforcement.

### Land Development

#### Kutz Elementary School – Playground Renovation Project – Request for Land Development Waiver

Ms. Mason stated that Kutz Elementary School is requesting a Waiver of Land Development. They are improving their playground, making it more accessible and a very de minimums area that they are expanding into an area not currently developed. Upon Board approval, Mr. Clarke will do a Land Development Waiver Agreement upon Boards approval.

On motion on Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Santacecilia the Board approved the Kutz Elementary School waiver requests. The motion carried 5 – 0.

#### Collins – 202 Briarwood Court – On Lot Sewage Management Agreement

Ms. Mason stated that this is approval of an operation maintenance agreement for an on lot septic system that is a requirement of the PADEP for 202 Briarwood Ct. They went through the Zoning Hearing Board for a special exception for an accessory dwelling as part of that they need to put in a second septic system. The DEP has required us to enter into that On-lot Maintenance and Management Agreement. Homeowners' responsibility the Township will observe from time to time.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the Board agreed to enter into the On-lot Maintenance and Management Agreement with 202 Briarwood Ct. The motion carried 5 -0.

#### 1976 S Easton Road (Car Wash) – Plan Review Extension

Ms. Mason stated that next we have a request from JDL DYL Properties at 1796 Easton Road for an extension of the Land Development through June 18, 2024.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the Board approved the Land Development Extension for 1976 S. Easton Road (Car Wash) to June 18, 2024. The motion carried 5 – 0.

South Easton Road to Borough Connector Trail Project – Engineering Proposal & Agreement

Ms. Mason reminded the Board that we received additional funds on the South Easton Road to Borough Connector Trail. We have a proposal from Baker Engineering to do the appropriate design and engineering for \$50,000.

Ms. Santacecilia asked if this is 100% funded, will there be any other expenses attached to this trail? Ms. Mason stated that this is 100% construction funded at this time the Township is required to match the preliminary engineering design work associated with it. She deferred to Mr. Kelso regarding possible additional costs. Mr. Kelso, Bike/Hike Chairman stated that cost for Baker is part the Township's responsibility for the design of the system, it is rare to have grants that cover 100% of construction. We split Baker's design in two, the preliminary design which you have now, will take us up to putting bid documents together. Ms. Santacecilia stated that she would like a better understanding of the trials from start to finish with all the costs to the Township associated. Will this be the same situation with this trail as with the 202 Parkway trail? Mr. Kelso stated that the first part of the process is the feasibility study, curbs were added, there is 6' of separation between the road and the trail, like a sidewalk. The curbs provide protection, the parkway does not have curbs.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon the Board approved the Baker Engineering Proposal & Agreement for the South Easton Road to Borough Connector Trail. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Oracle NetSuite for Local Government Contracts

Ms. Mason reminded the Board that they saw a presentation on this item previously is the contract with Oracle NetSuite, the total amount is \$126,061.92. Mr. Wallace is here if you have any questions, our solicitor's office has reviewed the documents.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the Board approved the Oracle NetSuite Contract in the amount of \$126,061.92. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Community Recreation Center – Applied Video Technology (AVT) System Design Contract for Broadcast & Live Stream

Ms. Mason stated that the Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB) is recommending Applied Video Technology (AVT) to do the assessment of the system and design for the proposed total price of \$2,500. This amount will come from the TAB budget.

Ms. Santacecilia inquired why this was not done when we did the original recreation center, didn't we look at this? Mr. Ebenbach stated this is nowhere in the building costs, this is trying to get ahead with what we will want to do a year or two from now. This meeting today may have to occur in the Community Recreation Center, we may want to broadcast programs, let's do the system design now so we are ready to execute. This is being paid out of the TAB budget, the two buildings will be able to communicate.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon the Board approved the Applied Video Technology (AVT) contract in the amount of \$2,500. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Doylestown Walk – Deed of Dedication Open Space C & H

Ms. Mason stated that the dedication of Doylestown Walk Open Space C & H has been reviewed by the Township Engineer and Solicitors Office, this was part of the Land Development Conditions of Approval. We've received the executed copies from Toll Brothers.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon the Board accepted the Deed of Dedication Doylestown Walk Open Space C & H. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Parks & Recreation – DAA Turk Park Improvement Requests

Ms. Mason stated that the Park & Recreation Board and staff met with representatives from Doylestown Athletic Association (DAA). DAA made a proposal to the Township to add a shed and scoreboards to Turk Park Fields 5 & 6. At our request DAA contacted the neighbors across the street regarding the scoreboard, the neighbors were fine with the proposal. The Park & Recreation Board is recommending moving forward with these park amenities. DAA will purchase, do the installation, and will maintain both.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood, the Board approved the DAA request to build a shed at Turk 2 and scoreboard at Turk Park Fields 5 & 6. The motion carried 5 – 0.

ResolutionsBaseline Water Quality Data Program – Resolution #2598

Ms. Mason reminded the Board that at their last meeting they authorized us to apply for a grant for a Baseline Water Study by the DEP, this has been prepared and is ready to be submitted. There is a requirement for an Authorized Official Resolution by the Township. We are submitting the grant for \$248,458 with a 15% grant match of 37,268.70, total grant request amount \$211,189.30.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon the Board approved Resolution #2598 authorizing Jennifer Herring and Stephanie Mason to execute the documents necessary for the agreement. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Birdtown – Lights Out Program – Resolution #2599

Ms. Heidi Schiver, EAC, Vice Chair, stated that the Lighting Resolution is to show residents what they can do to support birds as they migrate through our area. Last week we had 1.6 million birds crossing over Bucks County. Anything we can do to help them, so they don't get confused or disoriented, we are asking residents to reduce their lighting between 11PM to 5AM.

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the Board approved Resolution #2599 Birdtown Lights Out Program. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Zoning Hearing BoardBaisley – 106 Julie Lane – TP#09-030-193 – Request a Variance

The application was sent to the Zoning Hearing Board without opposition by the Township.

Burpee & Wheatley – 490 Almshouse Road – TP 09-007-015 – Request a Variance

The application was sent to the Zoning Hearing Board without opposition by the Township.

Seiden – 8 Windey Way Lane – TP 09-030-009 – Requests a Variance

The application was sent to the Zoning Hearing Board without opposition by the Township.

Hartman – 110 Davids Way – TP 09-040-027 – Requests a Special Exception

The application was sent to the Zoning Hearing Board without opposition by the Township.

Slinger – 174 Shady Retreat Rd – TP 09-035-055 – Requests a Special Exception & Variance

The application was sent to the Zoning Hearing Board without opposition by the Township.

Lemp – 31 Lynbrook Lane – TP 09-019-034 – Requests Special Exception

The application was sent to the Zoning Hearing Board without opposition by the Township.

Treasurers Report – May 21, 2024 – On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood the Treasurers Report was approved. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Bills List – May 21, 2024 – On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Mr. Wood the Bills List in the amount of \$1,381,012.32 was approved. The motion carried 5 – 0.


**Public Comment – All Items**

Mr. Cox, resident commended the work being done on Short Road, they are doing a great job replacing the drain and Short Road will be paved this year. He commended the police for the exceptional job they did last week during an incident in Doylestown Borough. He has no problem with the Human Resources Commission, everybody is doing it. You have to be careful about one thing, the genetics clause is a medical clause, which is covered under HIPPA and could land in Federal Court. Ask the solicitor if that can be removed from the HRC.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Ms. Lyons, seconded by Ms. Dixon, the meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stephanie J. Mason, Secretary

## Plumstead Township's EAC 'Green Business' Reusable Bag Initiative Sponsorship Opportunities



"Go Green" by sponsoring the Plumstead Township's EAC Reusable Bag Initiative!

Sponsor the initiative and have your logo displayed on the 100% recycled plastic made reusable bag.

Receive perks like EAC hosted table events, opportunities to attend and advertise your business at Plumstead Township hosted events, free Ad space in the Township newsletter, social media mentions and your own stack of reusable bags to display or sell at your business.

### PLATINUM | \$1000

- EAC hosted promotional table event at your business
- Table display at a future Plumstead Township hosted event
- 3x3 in. company logo inclusion on the top line of sponsor area of the reusable bags
- Ad space in Township newsletter for all three editions (newsletters are mailed to all township residents & distributed at events)
- Mentions on Township website and social media platforms
- 100 reusable bags

### GOLD | \$800

- 2x2 in. company logo inclusion in the middle area of the reusable bags
- Ad space in Township newsletter for all three editions
- Mentions on Township website and social media platforms
- 70 Reusable Bags

### SILVER | \$500

- 1x1 in. size company logo inclusion on reusable bags
- Ad space in Township Newsletter for all three editions
- Mentions on Township Website and Social Media Platforms
- 40 Reusable Bags

Once you have decided which sponsorship level suits your business, complete the Sponsorship Application Form on the next page and return the form and payment to Plumstead Township. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Susten at [asusten@plumstead.gov](mailto:asusten@plumstead.gov) or 215-766-8914.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working together to reduce single use plastic in Plumstead Township!



## Plumstead Township 'Green Business' Sponsorship Application Form

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### BUSINESS / CONTACT INFORMATION

Business Name:	
Business Address:	
Mailing Address:	
Contact Person:	
Phone Number:	Email:

**SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION** – Please check the corresponding box next to the sponsorship level you would like to sign up for. This sponsorship is a one-time sponsorship.

- Level 3 | \$1000.00
- Level 2 | \$800.00
- Level 1 | \$500.00

**Payment Method** – Accepted payment methods are check or credit card. Please make all checks payable to Plumstead Township. If paying by check, please include this sponsorship application form. Checks and completed applications can either be mailed to the Township Administrative Building, 5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947, or dropped off during open business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Credit card payments can be made in person at the Township building or online at [www.plumstead.org](https://www.plumstead.org). If paying by credit card, a completed form must also be received.

Once payment and completed documentation is received by the Township, the Township's EAC staff liaison will reach out to obtain your business's logo and discuss the program and production timeline with you!

Thank you for your support!

Plumstead Township | 5186 Stump Road, Pipersville, PA 18947 | [www.plumstead.org](http://www.plumstead.org)



April 27, 2023

RE: "Go Green" by sponsoring the Plumstead Township's EAC Reusable Bag Initiative

Dear Business Owner,

Plumstead Township's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is a seven-member council of volunteers who reside in Plumstead Township. The EAC's mission is to educate and involve the public about environmental topics in the community! This year the EAC is focused on researching the impacts of single-use plastics, including plastic straws, bags, and takeout food containers. As part of our efforts to engage and educate the public, we have designed a unique re-usable bag, made of 100% recycled material, in the hopes to educate and involve the community, and mitigate the use of single-use plastic bags.

The EAC is looking for businesses who want to "go green" and sponsor the reusable bag initiative. Your sponsorship simply means you care about the cause and want to participate in this community opportunity. As a sponsor your business' logo will be displayed on the reusable bag, and you will receive perks like advertisement space in the Township newsletter, social media mentions, and free bags to display at your business, or sell, at your discretion. Additionally, there is an opportunity to have the EAC host a table event outside your business to promote the initiative and your business' efforts in sustainability.

Limited spaces are available so if you are interested in this opportunity and want to learn more about the initiative and sponsorship levels, please contact the Township at 215-766-8914 or email us at [plumsteadTwpEAC@gmail.com](mailto:plumsteadTwpEAC@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew J. Rossi".

Matthew J. Rossi, EAC Chairman  
Plumstead Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)





**To: Doylestown Township**

**From: Kathleen Sarosky, Doylestown Township**

**Re Doylestown Township Proposed Plastic Bag Ban**

After reading many articles about plastic bag bans, I feel Doylestown Township should not adopt a plastic bag ban at this time. I don't think the use of reusable bags or paper bags benefit the environment when the environmental cost of producing the paper and reusable bags is included. I think the township should do a cost/benefit life cycle analysis prior to a vote on the ban.

Most of the articles I read have said it is complicated, but each of the three bag choices (plastic bags, paper bags, and reusable bags) has its pros and cons.

A Columbia University Climate School article

[<https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/04/30/plastic-paper-cotton-bags/>] says:

“To understand the full spectrum of impacts and benefits of a particular bag, we need to analyze its life cycle. **A life cycle analysis (LCA) looks at how much energy is used and how many environmental impacts a product is responsible for at every stage of its life**, from cradle to grave. This includes extracting the raw materials, refining them, manufacturing the product, packaging it for shipment, transporting and distributing it, its use and possible reuse, recycling and final disposal.

In any LCA, the total environmental impact also depends on how efficient each process is, and how many protective environmental measures are implemented at every stage. Energy use is also subject to variables such as the source of raw materials, the location of manufacturing and processing, how long a product is used and the final disposal method.

**Life cycle studies done in Europe and North America have determined that, overall, plastic bags are better for the environment than paper or reusable bags unless the latter are used many times.** Most, however, did not consider the problem of litter, which we know is a major drawback of plastic bags.”

I do not think that litter would be enough of a problem in Doylestown Township to overcome the conclusion that plastic bags are the best alternative, as there would also be litter from paper bags and reusable bags.

From a National Geographic education article at

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/sustainable-shoppingwhich-bag-best/>

“Reusable bags are made from many different materials, and the environmental impact of producing those materials varies widely. One study from the United Kingdom (U.K.) found that, regarding bag production, cotton bags have to be reused 131 times before they reduce their impact on climate change to the same extent as plastic bags. **To have a comparable**

**environmental footprint (which encompasses climate change as well as other environmental effects) to plastic bags, a cotton bag potentially has to be used thousands of times.** Materials other than cotton, however, perform much better in sustainability metrics. Nonwoven polypropylene (PP) is another popular option. Made from a more durable kind of plastic, these bags need to be reused around eleven times to break even with the impact of conventional plastic.” But see below where a study found that most reusable bags are only used 2 to 3 times.

From The American Consumer Organization

<https://www.theamericanconsumer.org/2022/11/new-study-reveals-unintended-consequences-of-plastic-bag-restrictions/>

A 2011 study by the Northern Ireland Assembly found that on average, paper bags require nearly four times as much energy to manufacture and generate “70% more air and 50 times more water pollutants” than plastic bags. Cotton tote bags need to be reused 131 times in order to emit less greenhouse gases than plastic bags – and many shoppers own several, not just one. Moreover, cotton totes have also been found to harbor harmful bacteria, because consumers rarely think to wash them.

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/peril-and-promise/2023/03/plastic-bags-are-a-problem-are-plastic-bag-bans-a-a-solution/>

As compared to plastic bags, paper bags also require significantly more energy and water to manufacture, and more energy to transport since they’re heavier. Put all that together, and National Geographic estimates that a paper bag would need to be used anywhere from 3 to 43 times in order to neutralize its environmental impact as compared to plastic. Different studies say different things, but the point is clear: even though paper bags are much better for the environment in the disposal stage, the rest of the supply chain is riddled with problems.

Why I’m opposed to the plastic bag ban:

- **I think it will hurt local businesses** because of the inconvenience to shoppers, especially at non-food stores. To save a bag fee, you have to remember to bring a bag into the store, and you may not even know how many bags you might need. People are likely to go to stores in localities without the ban, or do online purchasing. From my experience, online purchasing uses more and thicker plastic bags. And a plastic bag ban would, unfortunately, increase my online purchases.
- With inflation, the cost of goods is a problem for many people today. Having to pay for paper bags or to buy reusable bags would increase the costs of food and other items that we need to buy.

- The results of plastic bag bans have not shown there to be an environmental gain. New Jersey's ban has actually led to an increase in plastic used in the state.

From a 1/22/24 Forbes article

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickgleason/2024/01/22/new-jersey-bag-ban-followed-by-increased-use-of-plastic/?sh=77ea8a366a85>

“Reusable bags are manufactured with 15 to 20 times the amount of plastic used in the now prohibited single-use plastic bag, notes the Freedonia report. The reusable bags that New Jersey residents now pay for at checkout or when their groceries are delivered, according to researchers, need to be used anywhere from 11-59 times in order to have a net benefit for the environment. The Freedonia study found most reusable bags are used an average of two to three times. As a result, **overall plastic usage for bags in New Jersey has risen.**”

I think it would be best to NOT impose a plastic bag ban, but instead work to educate people 1) to not put thin plastic bags in with their recycling, and 2) explain that there are drop-off locations for the single-use plastic bags (something I did not know of, but will definitely do in the future).

Exhibit C



**SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAG  
BAN ORDINANCE**

DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP EAC, 2024

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## SINGLE USE PLASTIC: BACKGROUND

The U.S. uses billions of single use plastic (SUP) bags, straws, bottles and cups every year

Used for a few minutes but last for many years in our environment, creating litter, clogging storm drains, choking wildlife and breaking down into 'microplastics'.



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## **SINGLE USE PLASTIC: IMPACT**

**Pollute our parks, local waterways and oceans**

**Harm and kill wildlife**

**Generate toxic microplastics that are inhaled and ingested by people and animals**

**Heavy metals, BPA and PFOs (forever chemicals)**

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## **SINGLE USE PLASTIC: BACKGROUND**

Single use plastic bags are **RARELY** recycled

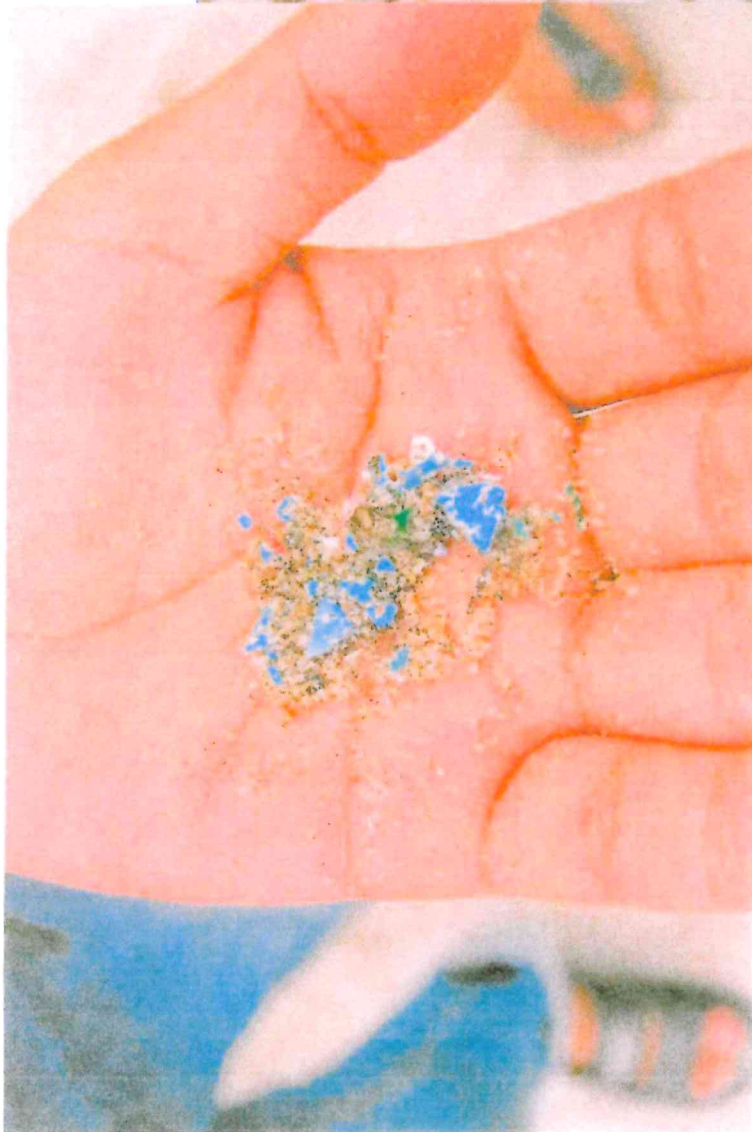
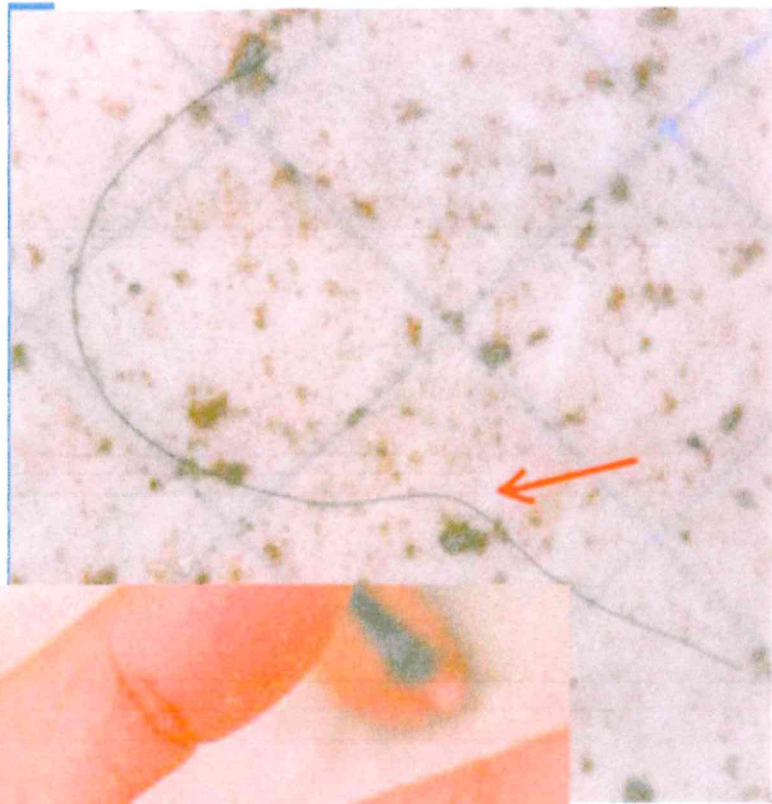
They impede normal recycling systems

Most end up in the environment, landfills or incinerators

Even through specialty collections sites (like Kohls) these bags end up in landfills (usually in Asia)







# LOCAL ACTION IN PA

## Plastic ordinances in PA

- 29 total ordinances
- Over 18% of PA
- 900 million single-use plastic bags per year
- 4,900 tons of plastic eliminated per year
- Narberth Borough
- West Chester Borough
- City of Philadelphia
- West Goshen Township
- Haverford Township
- City of Pittsburgh
- Easttown Township
- Solebury Township\*
- Media Borough
- Radnor Township
- Ambler Borough
- Tredyffrin Township
- West Norriton Township
- Uwchlan Township
- Doylestown Borough\*
- Cheltenham Township
- Swarthmore Borough
- Lower Merion Township
- Upper Moreland Township
- Upper Merion Township
- Whitmarsh Township
- Springfield Township
- Lancaster Township
- Montgomery Township
- Newtown Township\*
- Edgewood Borough
- Phoenixville Borough
- Newtown Borough\*
- Upper Dublin Township

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Web-based community survey*	2018-2019
Participation with regional SUP coalition	since 2019
Community Engagement at table events and FB Educational packet for BoS and	since 2019
Resolution for voluntary reduction in SUP <u>passed</u> : Action Plan:	Nov 2021- Jan 2022
Door-to-door <u>business survey</u> :	January 2022
Created engagement letter and list of addresses for restaurants:	June 2022
Presented results to BoS	December 2022
	January 2023

\*70% support for SUP bag ban

# ORDINANCE OVERVIEW

A ban on single-use plastic bags given out at the point of checkout.

Most other single-use bags are exempt from this ban.

There is a 6 month run in period before implementation for awareness and preparation by merchants

Reusable bags are described

Paper bags may be supplied by the vendor, but must contain a minimum of 40% recycled fiber, and the vendor must charge a minimum of 15c per bag.

We know that the small fee for paper bags influences behavior towards the use of reusables.

The bag fee stays with the vendor (this is not a tax)

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# QUESTIONS