

**Mt. Lebanon Environmental Sustainability Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**August 13, 2020 – Virtual**

- **Call Meeting to Order**

Attendees:

Abby Lawlor Morycz  
Nora Alwine  
Natalie Uschner-Arroyo  
Bethany Foster-Wilhelm  
Sarah Levinthal  
Heather Wechter  
Tim Reidy  
Andrew Flynn  
Bonnie Cross

Absent:

Hugh Beal

- **Public Comment:** None

- **Approval of July, 2020 Minutes:** Heather motioned to approve the March, 2020 minutes. Abby seconded and all members in attendance approved.

- **ESB Business:**

- **Climate Action Plan**

- CONNECT. Mt. Lebanon was advised of a program for local governments through the PA DEP to develop Local Climate Action Plans (LCAP). The window to be an individual member of the 2020-2021 cohort has closed, however, CONNECT (Congress of Neighboring Communities) plans to participate in the LCAP this year on behalf of all their member communities. **CONNECT will participate as a “region,” meaning a region-wide greenhouse gas inventory & climate action plan will be developed for all 38 communities as a whole.** Lydia Morin, the Executive Director, will serve as the primary contact for CONNECT’s participation, and she will assemble a few graduate students to do the majority of the work. Representatives from Mt. Lebanon ESB who really want to be involved with this effort, can be a member of the CONNECT Climate Action Committee which will begin to be formed this fall to guide the climate action plan development process beginning in January 2021. Andrew explained that CONNECT is a think tank out of the University of Pittsburgh; members are first ring suburbs. Andrew is involved with that group

and he reached out to CONNECT; they would be very interested in Mt. Lebanon's involvement with the project. If there is interest, he will reach out to have someone attend the September meeting. This would be part of a broader community than just Mt. Lebanon, but could be of assistance in building our data and could assist us in building a discipline of collecting our data on an ongoing basis.

In addition, Mt. Lebanon has the option of obtaining free membership to utilize the ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) database.

- **EcoDistricts.** In relation to the Local Climate Action Plan project, Abby explained that an EcoDistrict encompasses more. The CAP would be a part of this. The EcoDistrict is broader and takes more time and involvement from community stakeholders. Andrew added that he sees this as a stand-alone project that Mt. Lebanon does, but it's important that we begin to build consensus and momentum around a shared vision. The added benefit to the CAP and EcoDistrict is that it provides a map for the ESB as members change within the board.
- **Air Quality Update.** Tim sent information earlier to the board members regarding research that he had done on air quality monitors. He reached out to Aeroqual with a basic idea of what was needed in order to get some help in choosing the right product, and some initial pricing. They have portable air monitors, as well as permanent air monitors, whose data can be accessed remotely and digitally in real time. Tim explained that the best monitors are around \$10,000, but they can measure multiple pollutants from a single monitor, and that's what is needed to test the general air quality. Andrew told the group that it's good to collect this information, but that it wasn't likely that given the economy this year, an expenditure would be budgeted for 2021. In response to a question regarding less expensive monitors, Tim responded that cheaper ones only monitor one type of pollutant. He further explained that placement would be important and that it might be beneficial to have a consultant come in to advise on that. Other questions included whether there were any monitors in the South Hills and the Pittsburgh area. Heather mentioned that she tried to contact someone regarding the CMU Breathmobile, but hadn't gotten a response. Tim stated that with the Beaver Ethane Cracker Plant coming online soon, it would be critical to get baseline data as a comparison to protect the community.
- **Lebo Arboretum Program.** Abby stated that she just wanted to mention the Arboretum Program as general information, as she just became aware of it. Andrew added that this information that the Parks Board has can be used to

develop calculations. Other resources mentioned included the Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, and Penn State.

- **Magazine Submission Update.** Abby reported that she had contacted the PIO and that they were working on the October magazine. Information is available through the end of the year for articles.
  
- **Commission Business:**
  - **Bird Park.** Commissioner Flynn reported that improvements were underway and should be completed by fall.
  
- **New Business:**
  - Items mentioned included:
    - locally sourced food that would contribute to the ecodistrict;
    - more sustainable containers. Andrew suggested that this might be a goal that the Partnership could help fund.
    - Planting wildflowers in tree lawns and other areas of Mt. Lebanon.
    - Terracycle, a company that recycled difficult to recycle things.
    - PRC Glass Recycling bin
  
- **Adjournment.** Tim motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Heather, and unanimously approved by the members present.