

What'SUP General Meeting
04-23-2026

Present: Tom Crotty, Nancy Sellers, Linda Dapcic-Angst, Art Grim, Louise Grim, Brad Hartline, Stephanie Hartline, and Jen Stinson

Virtual: Cindy Murdough and Mars Felker

- The new legislator signature sheets are a big hit with the public. Many people signed these sheets at Earth Day on Saturday, April 18th. Linda also got some signed at Exeter Quaker Meeting and a NAMI fundraiser. We will be able to share these sheets with other groups to use with our logo removed.
- Don Hamp, who started an organization called "Reduce Plastic PA" five years ago, heard about our organization, contacted us, and invited us to participate in their monthly meetings by Zoom (Philadelphia area). Louise attended this meeting and she shared the legislator signature sheets with them. Reduce Plastics PA are planning to make a You Tube presentation on the dangers of microplastics. Their group recommended sending information to doctor's offices. Carol Armstrong, in the meeting, reported that the value of recycling has fallen so the incentive for recycling is lower. This is also the case for recycled paper. Faron Savitz spoke about the study of nurdles (tiny plastic pellets 2-5 MM in size, that pollute oceans and beaches worldwide). They also talked about the chemical plants which break down plastic resin and, at the same time, release toxic chemicals which damage the environment and human health. May 20th is the next meeting. Linda will send them a copy of our legislator signature sheet.
- Tom reviewed the up-coming tabling events for this month and next. We would like to recruit more people to help with these events. The Alvernia event is on Friday, April 24th and Art and Louise will handle. Saturday, April 25th is the Wyomissing Happy Hollow event and will be covered by Linda, Art, Louise, and Ellen. Tom will take materials to Fleetwood for a Scout event with Janelle on this day as well. The Sunday event is at the Kula Kamala Foundation and will be covered by Deanna, Nancy (12:00 – after), and Tom.
- Lots of t-shirts and bags were sold and people gave donations at the Earth Day event.
- Linda is taking care of the signed legislator sheets – she has about 130 signed. Some people do not know their representatives, but we are able to look it up if the signed sheets are legible.
- We talked about contacting the school districts of Berks County to get students to sign the legislator signature sheets and send to their legislators. It would be challenging unless we could send something to the teachers or the PTO meetings since it would be difficult to get responses from administration. At this point in the school season, it would not be beneficial to reach out now.
- We talked about a video to put on You Tube and/or social meeting. Mars is waiting for what we want to include in the video before starting the project. Tom will send to Mars a copy of

the Canva power point file which will cover some of the things that could be included in the video.

- A question was posed that if we get a child or underage person to sign our letter to legislators without parental approval, which was done at Earth Day at City Park, do we have any liability? Art Grim stated we should not have any issue since we are not promoting anything negative.
- Wilson Middle School's Field and Stream Days is in May (1,500 students) – Jen is going to be the lead teacher. We discussed contacting the Mifflin school kids as well. Jen is going to collect all the different kinds of plastics in use to teach what is able to be recycled and what is not. She is going to present alternatives to plastics. We have 25 minutes for each group. Jen would like to ask them some fun questions. We also need to find out if we will be inside or outside.
- We spoke about the need for more newcomers to get involved and help out in getting out our message.
- Art talked about meeting with the Gouglerstown Grange, which were all women. They were very enthusiastic and contributed \$50.00 in donations. They already had a high level of knowledge given the impacts to the farm animals. Cassidy Shaffer, from Allegheny County, was at this meeting and is the state-wide membership director. She asked if we some sort of proposal to present at the state convention in October. We spoke about doing something for this for presentation.
- Louise mentioned doing presentations in libraries. Senior centers and churches are other possibilities. On Sunday, May 26th, Art and Louise will be speaking at the UCC Association meeting of 20 churches.
- Tom checks on emails coming into What'SUP, with a couple of contacts coming in a month.
- Art talked about his meeting with Jim Boscov. Some of the Boscov locations have already eliminated plastic bags. Jim would like to have reusable bags with their logo on them as he does in his other locations. There is a charge for those reusable bags. If Jim gets on board and Boscov's eliminates single-use plastic bags in the local markets, it will encourage other big box stores to do the same.
- The podcast is now available, with Tom and Linda being interviewed on our plastic ban initiative. Watch the podcast below.
- The Hartline's mentioned that June 30th is a good time to present to Cumru Township.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1KHN5slVcs>