

EAC Meeting  
3\8\2011  
Meeting Notes

There was no quorum for this meeting. Members in attendance were: Don Richardson, Bill Lloyd and Keith Peters. Supervisors in attendance were Tom Scarborough and Rick Colello. Visitors were: Jeff Simmons from Doylestown Borough EAC, and John Roger and Steve Saffair from Audubon PA, Bird town. Staff: Sandra Zadell and Karen Thompson.

**Bird Town Presentation**

Mr. Saffair and Mr. Roger presented on the Bird town Program run by Audubon, PA. Audubon Society has been focusing on policy education programs. Recently they have focused on Audubon at Home programs which focus getting the general public to create sustainable landscapes at home. This focus led to the Bird Habitat Recognition Program which encourages people to register their homes/gardens in PA. This program led to the program- Bird Town.

Upper Moreland is the first municipality to sign up for Bird Town. They have 10 homeowners in the training program which teaches them how to utilize the tools in the program. Schuylkill Township is the second municipality signing up for Bird Town.

Bird Town encourages homeowners to view their home as a community larger than just their yard, they hope to connect many yards to create a region of sustainable habitats for birds. Part of creating those habitats is creating areas that are good for storm water management, utilize native plants, plant smartly so that natural plantings can help with energy bills etc. The program racks and evaluates ecological function of all homeowners who are part of the program and offers many web features to help residents track their progress. The program does qualify as part of the municipalities requirements on their NPDES permit public participation and outreach. Sustainable results are measured by bird counts.

To sign up municipalities start with resolution to become Bird town. They then train residents who would go to interested people's homes to help them learn how to create a better habitat. It requires the pledge of commitment, an \$850 annual fee, a Bird Day Celebration as a fundraiser.

The next training to teach residents who to train their neighbors is March 26. The program is mainly funded through grants.

After the Bird town presentation the EAC conducted their meeting.

Mr. Peters asked Mrs. Zadell to contact Ray and see what he thinks about Bird Town and to invite him to the EAC's next meeting. Mr. Peters thinks that the \$850 fee for Bird

Town is a big nut to crack. It would be nice if Doylestown Borough and Township could split the fee and partner on the project.

Mrs. Zadell stated that she could possibly fund Bird Town it through the storm water budget since it will help to satisfy the public education piece of the storm water program.

Jeff , from Doylestown Borough said that the \$850 would also be difficult for their EAC, and he also wondered how many people would do it, how would we build support?

Mr. Peters stated that it seemed like it would be hard to get 40 households on Board, 10 seems more doable.

Mr. Peters reported that Doylestown Borough will be partnering with the EAC for the Summit which will be held Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>; at Delaware Valley College the Coffee House is reserved. The Summit will be held at 7 pm.

Mr. Lloyd stated that he thinks the coffee house is small, and that the all purpose room would be better.

Mr. Peters stated that we still need to discuss the format, which will dictate the room specific issue. If we get a huge response we can change the room. Also, Delaware Valley College and Doylestown Borough may have additional invites. He stated that the EAC needs to come up with Topics, and format and then he will email to Borough to see if they are on board with those topics. The EAC brainstormed and came up with:

- Larry Hepner- program stormwater speaker
- Birdtown

They also discussed different formats: Presentation, Q and A, Breakouts, discussion groups and networking.

Mr. Peters stated he will attend the Borough meeting and once he speaks with them will finalize the plans for the summit via email.

The committee discussed the Neamond Tract, who never directly responded to our memo, they mentioned they received it but never directly commented. They reviewed plan, but realize it is being resubmitted. Mr. Peters commented on the waivers in tree issues, he thinks that the plans are unclear on how they are going to protect the trees and calculate how many trees they are keeping. He is also worried about the lack of residential lighting. Mr. Richardson feels that the new develop removes the view of the historic mansion from the road, he is disappointed by that.

Mr. Peters stated that they haven't resolved tank issues, or furnished Phase 1 and 2 reports. He asked Mrs. Zadell to include on the next agenda bullet pointed questions that we still have on this plan including the list of issues on memo, plus the issue that they are now in a FEMA floodplain.

The EAC discussed Outdoor Wood Burners and Mr. Peters memo to planning and code enforcement summarizing our opinion on outdoor burner ordinance. The memo included the table that summarized the EAC's recommendations, if they are happy with state requirements we are happy to not make waves.

Mr. Colello asked the EAC how they want to handle the drafting of the ordinance, does the EAC want to do it or do you want planning commission to handle it? Mr. Peters stated the EAC is happy to start the process but we didn't want to start it if the Planning Commission isn't interested in it. Mr. Colello stated the Planning Commission is interested in the ordinance. The EAC will forward a draft ordinance to the Planning Commission.

The EAC discussed Arbor Day plans for 2011. Mrs. Zadell will contact the National Honor Society at Lenape Middle School, CB West Key Club, and Mr. Touhill to see about Troop 52.

The committee discussed the DEP open records requests. Mrs. Zadell reported that Mr. Feldman did get in touch with DEP and that they require that you go to their offices to observe the documents. How interested is EAC in having rep go down to obtain requested documents? This will be discussed at the next EAC meeting.

The EAC discussed the situation with Trash Haulers. Mr. Peters and Mrs. Zadell met with the representatives from Hatfield Township to discuss what happened in their municipality. One of the Trash Haulers sent a notification to all of the residents in the area that was full of negative info about switching to a single hauler. The letter essentially mobilized residents to attend the meeting and made it seem like the township was trying to do something underhanded. We want to avoid that happening here.

Mr. Peters suggested an opening for our survey addressing the environmental reasons for the survey. He wants to include an explanation that outlines why we are doing this survey and provides some pretext for why we are exploring this issue.

Mr. Scarborough commented that you have to let people know that there will be cost savings; we need to be as positive as possible.

Mr. Richardson agreed that an introduction is important. Mr. Peters will draft an introductory paragraph for distribution. The committee also thought that a town hall style meeting on the subject would be good to include. They will put that on the survey, and have a meeting date and time that people can come to discuss the issue if they feel it is important. They will shoot for a presentation at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Zadell also let the committee know that we did receive the SWANA funding, but they withdrew it on the same day. It was very disappointing.

Mrs. Zadell asked for Volunteers for the Spring Yard Waste Dates. Mr. Peters volunteered for the March 26<sup>th</sup> date, and Mr. Lloyd April 16<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup> date was not filled. We will ask for volunteers at the next meeting.

Mrs. Zadell stated that a resident on Valley Green Dr. called to complain about Deer Management. He has had Lyme disease and wants to know what the Township is doing about Deer Management. The EAC suggested we let him know that fencing and hunting are the only viable options. Mr. Peters did meet with Senator McIlhinney in July, and there aren't more options.

Riparian Buffers were tabled for the next meeting. We will air the riparian buffer program on the next EAC hour.

Mrs. Zadell that the WREN grant was approved by the Board of Supervisors and DTMA. We will be partnering with DTMA and Bucks County Conservation District.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.