

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
December 8th, 2015

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Raymond Hendrick (Chairman), Dr. Tanya Casas, Jeannine Mitchell, Don Richardson, Martin Brooks; Supervisors: Ken Snyder (Liaison); Autumn Canfield (Special Projects Coordinator), Stephanie Mason (Manager), Kaci Milligan (Intern)

Meeting began at 7:00pm
Mr. Hendrick called meeting to order.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Brooks motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Richardson second. Motion carried by all.

Plan Review

Plans were received for 651 N. Shady retreat Rd. for review. Mrs. Goldstein planned on being present to review plans with the committee but was unable to attend. Review of plans was tabled until January meeting.

New Business

Joyce Ely, a Delaware Valley University student had expressed interest in attending a meeting to discuss Doyelstown moving toward a wildlife habitat certification. Haycock Township has the certification and it may be something the group is interested in.

Rapid Recycling-

A recycling group reached out to the Environmental Advisory Council to ask if they would be interested in hosting a shred event. This sparked a discussion and the group is interested. Mrs. Canfield will get quotes from three companies on price for the January meeting and put the information in the Doylestown Township newsletter for the event.

As a reminder, the Environmental Advisory Council was given a \$50 gift certificate to Northeast Native Perennials when they received the Conservation Organization of the Year Award.

Old Business

Climate Change Action Plan-

Dr. Casas spoke with Lisa Grayson Zygmunt and discussed her time on her township's EAC when they worked with ICLEI to create a climate change action plan. She believed it was a valid and helpful organization. At the time her township incorporated this plan, there were not many resources and while she believes there may be more now, she is still in favor of ICLEI. The cost for the membership is \$600 a year which includes consulting, help of building a plan, workshops, templates and possible visits. The plan would be created based on the Township's needs. Lower Makefield Township was very interested in the Public Relations aspect so residents could see the progress their township was making. It provided them with framework and benchmarks so individuals could assess what they were doing. The creation of an action plan would require the Township to assess certain levels, like CO2 emissions and create a comprehensive plan on how to reduce them. The committee would have to do the footwork to find out this data. Lower Makefield provides their entire plan online.

Dr. Casas also reached out to Haverford Township but had not heard back yet. She intends to keep trying to get in touch with them as well and look into whether other Bucks County Municipalities have plans like this.

Radon Testing-

The potential letter went out in an e-mail for review. Mr. Hendrick believed a public service announcement article in the newsletter would be a good idea. Mrs. Canfield will check with the DEP to ensure there is no requirement of the resident to report if they have a radon problem after testing if the letter is sent out. Mrs. Milligan will check with other municipalities in the area to see if they are providing resident lists to the DEP for the mailing. Once this information is collected, the committee will make a decision at the January meeting.

Community Gardens-

Mrs. Milligan informed the group of her trip to Buckingham and New Britain to visit their community gardens. Her, Mr. Hendrick and Sinclair Salisbury, code enforcement officer, visited the gardens for preliminary research.

The next step is to conduct a survey to gauge the interest of the residents in participating in a garden project. Mrs. Milligan handed out potential survey questions for feedback from the committee.

Jeannine volunteered to work with Kaci to draft a survey for residents.

The site consists of ten usable acres. This is a large area and would not be completely taken up by this project. There was a discussion about the sizing of the plots. It was decided that multiple options to pick form might be the best avenue. Plots should not be too large as gardeners should not have to walk into the beds in order to care for them. A person should be able to reach in from the sides and be able to tend to the whole garden.

Mrs. Milligan also handed out a list of questions to be answered and considerations if the project were to continue past the survey point. Some of these questions were already answered by Mrs. Milligan.

Mr. Hendrick spoke with Mrs. Atkinson with Buckingham Township and she indicated that they turned the idea of a community garden over to their Civic Association who brought it to fruition. She also indicated that a large majority of the grown crops were donated to food pantries.

Buckingham Township had certain amenities available to them while they had to install others. Both of the gardens that were visited had wood box beds with woodchips around the outside and a single shed in the area.

Based on a conversation with Conshocken Borough, the fees they charge allow them to break even on the maintenance they provide in their garden.

There are grants available for projects like this.

Mrs. Milligan will check the conservation easement agreement with the county to see if a shed structure would be allowed.

More information still needs to be gathered, such as where the wood for the raised beds was obtained, how the civic association relationship works and what the motive of the township is. While Buckingham donates a large majority of its plants, Doylestown Township may want to leave it up to the individual what they do and simply provide a list of where it can be taken if they have extra.

Looking at the survey, an informational article will be put in the newsletter giving direction to the survey for residents. It will also be put out on the google group. Jeannine will help Kaci with wording of certain questions as not to scare them away with pricing or responsibility but still gaining the necessary information. Begin with interest questions and then ask pricing questions later as interested group is established. Mr. Brooks suggests when time comes, giving an outline of appropriate things to plant in a given area. Township residents would be given priority. If there is the option, there may be a resident and non-resident fee. Mr. Snyder will mention the intentions of the committee at the Board of

Supervisors meeting on December 15th to inform other supervisors.

Mrs. Mitchell gave an update on the Native Garden Brigade. They could not do their October clean-up and next clean-up will be in March. The Brigade is still active and interested and will continue to do consistent clean-ups in appropriate weather. In 2016, Mrs. Mitchell wants to do heavy planting so they area looks full by 2017. An addition of a squirrel proof bird feeder and a water source was suggested so the garden attracts more birds and looks like a habitat. A better sign needs to be placed distinguishing what the area is and requesting people use the path to walk through the garden.

Mr. Hendrick asked Mrs. Canfield to look up Hart's woods signage pricing and company as he is interested in getting similar signs to identify the meadow in Central Park. The Park and Recreation Board is currently looking into becoming a Monarch Butterfly designated Way Station. In order to keep meadow healthy, mowing needs to be monitored. In the past process, bidders have taken tours of the sites to be mower and were told where to mow and where not to mow. The meadows would be an area designated to not mow in until the proper time. Mrs. Mitchell suggested letter the committee know when these tours take place so they can join in.

Pine Run-

The county mowed again at Pine Run Reservoir. When new employee takes over, it is the hope that he is more receptive to changing the mowing practices.

Mr. Hendrick announced that the committee would be getting a new member. Interviews were conducted but decisions have not been made yet. The new member will be announced at the Board of Supervisors meeting on December 15th.

Other

The next meeting of this committee will be held January 12th, 2016 tentatively based on re-organization.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield
Special Projects Coordinator