

Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

January 8 2019

J. Baldassarre
T. Casas
M. Brooks
A. Susten
A. Woodson
D. Tomko
S. Mason
J. Mitchell

Guests

Brad Seiden PECO
Lisa Grayson PECO
Sam Bayless
Jordan Bayless

Meeting minutes for December were approved with correction of a misspelt name

Budget for 2018 was reviewed; costs for a small poster and Land Ethics Symposium will be added to the 2018 spend.

New Business:

B. Seiden and L. Grayson explained the PECO 'Smart Ideas' program which provides incentives, rebates and pre-discounted equipment for energy efficiency. The new building will qualify for some rebates ,but the Township needs to act quickly; normally such rebates are allocated after approval of plans, but there is a 180 day 'look back period' under which we could apply. D. Tompko to follow up with L. Grayson to provide the necessary documentation to qualify. In addition, change in park and parking lot lighting from metal halide to LED will qualify for rebates, which could cover the cost of bulbs, switches and sensors. Incentives will decrease after April 30 the Township should act as soon as possible.

The Old Growth Forest network wishes to recognize Hart's Woods and a celebration will be planned for the dedication. The proposed date is June 15th but this needs to be coordinated with the Heritage Conservancy. A. Susten will connect with the Heritage Conservancy to coordinate a date and the details of the event. An informational leaflet will also be created from existing historical information.

The EAC will apply for the Bowman's Hill Land Ethic Symposium award. A. Susten and J. Mitchell will complete the application. The deadline is January 18.

The EAC is expected to provide an annual update presentation to the Board of Supervisors on February 5th. The presentation should be 3 to 5 minutes long. J Mitchell will represent the EAC.

Old Business:

The Christmas Bird Count took place on December 30th with a team of 5 from Doylestown. Forty three species were identified in our area of Central Bucks. The Great Backyard Bird Count will take place on February 15-18. Instructions can be found at the Audubon Society website, and BirdTown members will be notified. J. Mitchell will also work with the TAB to video an announcement for the DTV channel and the website.

The bluebird boxes will be cleaned on February 2, weather permitting. The boxes will also be numbered so the Township can keep a better list of its assets.

J. Mitchell is coordinating with Bill Liccopolli from CB West Environmental Studies program to develop an environmental education program in Central Park. As part of the activity, students will assist with pulling invasive weeds. This should be up and running by sometime this spring.

Ready for 100 Update. T. Casas is arranging a first introduction between Steve Nelson and S. Mason to see what activities Del Val students might do to assist the township with developing an energy transition plan. [Now scheduled for February 15].

The Recommended Landscape and Buffer Planting Ordinance revision is with the Planning Commission and will be going to the Board of Supervisors for approval this month.

A. Susten created draft ID badges for the EAC, but without names. The format is nice but we request she mock up badges with individuals' names for next month.

The Pine Run Reservoir signage has been installed. A celebration will be planned. A. Susten will contact H. Shiver to make arrangements and decide on a list of invitees. Individuals from the Township, New Britain Borough and the County should be invited.

M. Brooks and D. Richardson have made a recommended planting list for the Ash Rd buffer. It involves mainly shrubs. M. Brooks will also provide an estimated cost. The planting of shrubs could be part of the required Arbor Day activities, and the Township can support the plantings with the available tree planting budget. D. Tomko also notes that some of last year's Arbor Day plantings have been deer-browsed to death. In future we should plan on deer guards or plant fewer, larger trees with a better chance of survival.

The EAC is still interested in the idea of having high school students create an entertaining educational video on recycling. To ensure good quality, we would want to create guidelines and review and approve a draft script. A. Susten to investigate the legalities and ownership of commissioning a group video.

Looking forward to the Fall Speaker Series, we would be interested in having Kristen Winter speak about her plans for the Fonthill Arboretum restoration. J. Baldassarre will contact her [She has tentatively agreed].

The next EAC meeting will be held on February 12, 2019 at 7 pm