

Doylestown Township EAC Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2021

J. Baldassarre
Justin Frye (guest)
KC Frye (guest)
J. Mitchell (Chair)
E. Neal (guest)
C. Sawyer
A. Walizer Special Projects Coordinator)
A. Woodbury
D. Wood (Supervisor)

June meeting minutes were approved

No change to budget since last meeting

A. Walizer explained about changes to the Act 65 (Sunshine Law) as it relates to meetings. All public meetings must be held in a public place with prior notice. The agenda must be published on-line, and no additional business or decisions may be discussed (unless *de minimus* and with agreement of the group).

New Business:

H. Shiver has agreed to prepare a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting a policy to reduce be used of single use plastic. The EAC supports this action and suggests that the policy coordinate closely with that of the borough. J. Baldassarre will contact Wendy Margolis at the Borough EAC to determine the status of their ordinance. We also note that the city of Philadelphia has an ordinance which will go into effect later this year. Engagement with local businesses and the community will be important for successful implementation.

J. Mitchell has asked that we try to resume the Heritage Tree project. J Baldassarre will ask Jeff Schumacher if he will be able to go and assess trees as they are proposed. A. Walizer will try to find the existing list of heritage trees.

The EAC is aware that pesticides and herbicides are commonly used along township roadways to reduce weed overgrowth for maintenance and safety reasons. The EAC would like to explore alternative methods to control weeds while reducing the use of these chemicals. However, the extent of the work required to implement potentials is beyond the capabilities of the EAC itself, and the Township staff has proposed two small areas along East Butler Ave near Delaware University that might be used to test alternative approaches. E. Neal will research potential organic methods and native plants that might be tested in these areas. Alternative approaches will need to be costs effective compared with the costs of herbicides and mowing.

Ongoing Business:

The selected spots for the tree informational signs along the Neamond trail have been changed to avoid flood areas.

Master Watershed Steward project to remove invasive plants around the basin in the Environmental Education Center in Central Park will commence on July 14 with a small group and with a larger group of Master Watershed Stewards on July 21. The aim is to clear invasives from the basin side that faces the Native Plant Garden.

J. Mitchell and A. Woodbury met with Eric Allen's wife, Nancy Stock-Allen. She is the Chair of the Aquetong Spring Park Advisory Council. There are two Lenape persons on her committee. She noted a number of concerns with the current Native American Memorial. There is now a suggestion to move the memorial to a more auspicious location, rather than trying to beautify the current spot. Additional input is also needed from local Lenape people to be sure the new location and memorial are culturally appropriate. Additional decisions will be taken after consultation with Lenape representatives.

The EAC Summit Planning for October 20 is in progress. The theme will be deer management. The TWP conference room is booked, and speakers have been suggested. J. Baldassarre will provide a previous email distribution list. T. Casas, C. Sawyer and A. Woodbury will coordinate with Solebury for the agenda, logistics and speakers.

The summer concert series is going again this year and the EAC will have a table at these events. EAC members have already volunteered to staff the table.

The pesticide brochure is under review by the TWP staff and awaiting approval. H. Shiver will arrange printing.

A meeting with the Planning Commission is scheduled for September 27 to discuss 2 issues: 1) possible preservation and reservation of unused parcels of township-owned land (open space) and 2) the model ordinance for renewable energy.

Subcommittees:

Bird Town: H. Shiver informs us that Bird Town Program is under transition and will be reinvigorated as a bird friendly habitat recognition program. A regional meeting for Bird town leaders will be planned for August.

Invasive plant of the month: H. Shiver identifies Butterfly Bush as the invasive plant of the month and prepared the materials.

Ready for 100: A. Walizer informs the EAC that the TWP is aware of the solar project in West Rockhill and has access to their project folder. Consideration of a solar installation for Doylestown TWP is underway. In addition, D. Wood informs us that Bucks County has completed a feasibility assessment for local solar and is considering a number of sites in Central Bucks where solar may be installed to supply the County facilities in Doylestown.

Native Plant Demonstration Garden: The application for the PHS community garden competition has been submitted and thanks to all who provided photos.

The next EAC Meeting will be held on August 10 at 7 pm.