

Doylestown Township EAC Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2021

J. Baldassarre
T. Casas
J. Mitchell (Chair)
E. Neal (guest)
J. Neal (guest)
C. Sawyer
H. Shiver
A. Walizer (Special Projects Coordinator)
A. Woodbury (Vice Chair)
D. Wood (Supervisor)

August meeting minutes were approved with corrections

Budget Issues:

Poole's Corner Planting, Phase 2. Gina Frederick of Schumacher and Associates has prepared a phase 2 plan which includes trees rather than understory plants and the budget is higher than anticipated. Further discussion is needed and this issue is postponed until the next meeting.

New Business:

Bee Friendly Pa is a program to allow homeowners to certify their properties as "bee-friendly". H. Shiver investigated the program and believes that this is more effort than we can take on now and the decision is to drop this issue.

Proposed plan for native plants in the roadway medians on Butler Ave. E. Neal has investigated the area. It is approximately 5100 sq ft. His recommendation would be to deep rototill the soil and overseed with a high-quality wildflower mix (combination perennials, annuals and biannuals). This should be done in early April. This will create a sustainable meadow which will require minimal maintenance (cutting once per year). This could be accomplished in one day if we can get access to the proper machinery (it can be rented). Another strategy would be heavily mulch in the fall but that will be labor intensive and would need to be done soon, and probably not necessary. A. Walizer will discuss this with the Township staff to get agreement and to see what machinery is already available, and to ensure assistance with safety controls along the roadside. This should also be publicized and videorecorded for the TWP website.

Review of development plans for 60 Meetinghouse Rd. and Ashbridge at Furlong. The plans were reviewed. In general the plans look very good with regard to trees and plantings. Two recommendations are to favor White Oak over Red Oak to avoid leaf scorch which affects Red Oak, and to consider including public EV chargers on these and future development plans. Comments will be returned with the plans.

The EAC will not be able to provide a children's activity for the Touch-a-Truck event due to the short notice and other activities on that day. However, the EAC will invite Lisa Purcell to attend a meeting so

we can plan appropriate activities for next year. In addition, the EAC will ask Karen Sweeney if electric vehicles may be included as part of the Touch-a-Truck event next year.

The remediation of the Sauerman Park Pond is tabled for now. Sauerman Park will be redeveloped as part of the PROS plan, and grants may be sought in early 2023.

The EAC voted to amend to Agenda to consider the nomination of Erich Neal as an Associate Member of the EAC. The motion passed unanimously, and E. Neal was voted in as an Associate Member.

Ongoing Business:

The pesticide information pamphlet text is still under review by H. Shiver and K. Raymond. A number of items need to be corrected and the program is tedious. This will not be printed yet and it will be reviewed again when close to final. A number of other communities have expressed interest in this brochure. In addition, the EAC authorized a spending of \$417 for 20 durable pesticide warning signs which will be used in the parks around the time of treatments to ensure residents are aware and can minimize exposure. The EAC recommends that the signs be placed prior to application of chemicals and for 48 hours after applications.

Jane Neal and a group of Master Watershed Stewards meet almost weekly to remove unwanted invasive plants from the area around the Central Park retention basin. The next workday is September 15. It is advisable to replant the cleared areas with natives to prevent invasives from regrowing. The EAC voted to send up to \$400 for plugs to replant the cleared areas.

Single use plastic: H. Shiver is looking into ways to minimize single use plastic waste, and she has circulated a draft letter for review and is coordinating the message with the Boro. However, the EAC also recommends that the letter be reviewed by the Board and also seeks a formal resolution from the TWP recognizing single use plastic as a hazard to human health and the environment. H. Shiver will contact the Supervisors individually to broach the acceptability of this approach.

H. Shiver and M. Scott have investigated alternatives to the use of herbicides along Township roads and have provided feedback to the Township staff. No further action required.

Heritage Trees: J. Baldassarre will prepare a description of the Heritage Tree program and a list of trees that have already been recognized for the Township website.

Native America Memorial. A. Woodbury has had a discussion with a member of the local Lenape Tribal Council (Barbara BlueJay Michalski). The Tribal Council will take up our request for input as time allows. No plantings will occur this year.

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. The meeting is now scheduled for 5:30 at the Township Admin Building. Any presentations or documents will be shared before the meeting. J. Baldassarre will provide an executive summary and recommendation to accompany the ordinance. T. Casas, J. Mitchell and K. Raymond will prepare a PowerPoint presentation regarding open space.

The joint EAC Summit with Solebury Township will be held on Wednesday October 20 in the Doylestown TWP Building. This will be a hybrid meeting, so attendees can webconference into the Summit. The

agenda has been agreed; A. Woodbury, C. Sawyer and T. Casas are working on invitations. A. Woodbury and J. Mitchell will arrange refreshments. All arrangements are on track, and C. Sawyer will be emailing invitations shortly. The EAC agreed to spend up to \$150 on refreshments.

Subcommittees:

Bird Town: H. Shiver informs us that Bird Town Program is under transition and making good progress. The next scheduled bird walk is planned for October 9 at 8:30 am.

Invasive plant of the month: This initiative will be suspended after 12 article due to time constraints. The EAC will revisit this program in the spring.

The native plant garden work continues monthly with excellent participation. Focus recently on clearing paths and extending the borders of the garden. There has been no work yet from the PHS regarding our Garden of Distinction application.

Ready for 100: The EAC has prepared a presentation for the Township regarding the solar electric installation in West Rockhill. J. Baldassarre and C. Sawyer will meet with S.Mason and TWP staff on Sept 23 to preview the discussion with the Board.

Bucks Co. Planning Commission Citizens Advisory Committee visited the Dark Hollow Park proposed trail site on August 31. This is very close to the stream and is clearly an environmentally sensitive area. A wide asphalt path is still an option but is inappropriate for this location. No decision has been made yet.

The next EAC Meeting will be held on October 12 at 7 pm.