

Doylestown Township EAC Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2021

J. Baldassarre
T. Casas
J. Mitchell (Chair)
C. Sawyer
H. Shiver
A. Walizer (Assist. TWP Manager)
D. Wood (Supervisor)

October meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Budget Issues:

\$4066 remains in budget, with additional spending approved (\$2960 for Poole's Corner trees, \$355 for retention basin plants, \$120 for refreshments at the deer summit, \$150 for membership in Buck's Beautiful, and \$130 for brochure printing), leaving \$351 unspent.

New Business:

A. Woodbury has suggested that Doylestown become Charter members of Bucks Beautiful at the cost of \$150. The EAC agrees in principal but needs more details. To be discussed again in December.

Ongoing Business:

H. Shiver proposes a speaker for the spring, Richard McCoy of Horticultural Services Inc to talk about organic land care. The cost would be about \$250 out of the 2022 budget. The subject remains to be decided.

Regarding the Watershed Friendly properties/open space in the TWP, J. Mitchell has had further discussions with the TWP staff and proposes several next steps, including: an article for the TWP newsletter to explain the project; a public workshop to educate residents about watersheds and watershed-friendly property; and a connection with the Penn State Extension MWS for support of our plan to certify these properties. In addition, we need a list or inventory of Township properties to evaluate; there are approximately 18 sites, and many of these are retention basins. This is also important to support the TWP MS4 requirements. This will be a long-term project. The first properties to evaluate will probably be the Environmental Education Center in Central Park, and the 'Ridings' of Doylestown. Another property to consider is the TWP property between Sandy Ridge Rd and Ash Rd, which is currently farmed using conventional (non-organic) methods. Another area to consider is the TWP-owned portion of Hart's Woods. It would be ideal to do an inventory of the plants in that area as part of the certification process.

C. Sawyer will follow up with others EACs that were unable to attend the Dee Summit, with the intention to form a working group to continue pursuing this issue early in the new year.

The Three-year Strategic Plan was reviewed and amended. The EAC has accomplished a great deal over the last 3 years. A new plan will be needed starting next year. H. Shiver has been leading this activity but

now requests that someone else take on this responsibly. It was agreed to review our individual roles once the new Chair is decided in 2022.

The recent TWP meeting regarding the new Rec Center was discussed. The basic shape, size and location have now been agreed. Many of the EACs suggestions for sustainability have been incorporated. The next public meeting will probably occur in January. J. Baldassarre and C. Sawyer will meet with the Supervisors to discuss additional specific recommendations which will further enhance sustainability and reduce operating costs.

The pesticide information pamphlet text is still under review by H. Shiver and K. Raymond. A. Walizer has investigated alternatives to standard pesticide management for roadside application. Organic pesticides were tried in the Boro and were not successful. At this time, we don't have viable alternatives to standard chemical applications.

H. Shiver is looking into ways to minimize single use plastic waste, and she has circulated a draft resolution and a letter to restaurants for review. The EAC is very satisfied with the resolution and recommends that we ask the BOS to adopt this. H. Shiver will contact the Supervisors individually to inform them of our proposal and seek input on this resolution. This could potentially be presented formally to the BOS in November.

The pesticide brochure is in final formatting with Kara Raymond and should be ready soon.

The various documents related to minimizing the use of single use plastics were discussed. The plan, the proposed resolution and the letter to restaurants were agreed. H. Shiver will reach out to the Supervisors to begin these discussions. In addition, it was suggested that the EAC meet with some of the local restaurants to discuss some of these issues. We note that most of the local restaurants are in the Boro, not the TWP.

Subcommittees:

Bird Town: H. Shiver informs us that Bird Town has decided on a number of events for the upcoming year. The Christmas Bird Count will be held on December 26, the birdbox cleanout will take place on February 22, the Nest Watch training will be given on March 19, and bird walks will be held on May 14 and June 11.

Ready for 100: J. Baldassarre and C. Sawyer met with Supervisor Lyons to discuss additional suggestions for the planned Rec Center, including solar electric, enhanced HVAC with Energy recovery systems and potential geothermal heating/cooling; all of these are expected to be cost saving over the life of the building. Barbara promised to move these suggestions onto the design architects for feasibility and costing. A. Walizer is also investigating a potential solar electric system along Lower State Rd, which has an appropriate site and access to a high-voltage PECO line. In addition, a ChargePoint EV charger is being installed at the TWP Building. The EAC will plan to present the West Rockhill experience to the BOS at the next TWP meeting on December 21.

The next EAC Meeting will be held on Dec 14 at 7 pm.