

## Doylestown Township EAC Meeting Minutes May 10, 2022

Attendees: Jim Baldassarre, Chad Clem, Jeannine Mitchell, Curt Sawyer, Heidi Shiver, Jen Herring, Stephanie Mason, Dave Tomko, Ryan Kelly

Guests: Marcello Mangano, Ann Woodbury, Alice Brittain, Lou Metzger, Joyce McCormick, Mary Anne Crozier

1. Minutes review and approval for March - 2 revisions
  - a. Heidi provided written report for Bird Town
  - b. Stephanie instead of Margaret
2. Budget review and budget items
  - a. Heidi to reach out to speaker for final bill – still waiting
  - b. Plants for Central Park
    - i. Jeannine spoke with Kind Earth Growers for plants for
    - ii. 9 trays of 50 plugs at roughly \$1.20/plug (swamp and butterfly milkweed, amsonia, cardinal flower, rudbeckia, false sunflower, buttonbush (and a few shrubs from Gino's) (\$750 request)
    - iii. Heidi mentioned aiding folks on Sandy Ridge Rd that were impacted by hurricane - Jim asked if we can revisit later this year to build into next year's budget
      1. Stephanie mentioned Board approved replacing trees along the ride-along 611
      2. Arbor Day Foundation has a grant process for replacing trees/plants for natural disaster that may be more appropriate for this
    - iv. Up to \$750 approved for Central Park native plants
  - c. Shirts
    - i. Jim is working on shirt for Chad - needed to print a new one
    - ii. Erich & Chad also need EAC badges
3. New Business
  - a. Resident request for advice on groundwater
    - i. Alice lives at Doylestown Station - having runoff issues what plant life is currently in problem area and recommend better plants for helping with water management
    - ii. Alice also suggested an area near Kid's Castle for a rain garden
      1. Jeannine suggested looking into the Penn State Watershed Friendly Properties program that EAC supports - Jeannine will follow-up
      2. Would like EAC/master gardeners to come onsite and assess
      3. Stephanie mentioned any projects that address this area should be going through the EAC - Stephanie suggested that she work with the current developer
      4. Dave T. mentioned the Basin actualization program - Basin naturalization program - Inspected 1x last year and 2x this year - No Mow signs are being moved around - suggested funneling questions or ideas through him or Stephanie - Township will be rewilding all 30+ basins to adhere to the MS4 Permit - currently stop mowing except for 1x per year - there are a few that are getting a little out of control, but for the most part it has been going well.

5. EAC should recommend when to mow basins (March is ideal month for this area)
    - a. MS4 Permit (Unfunded Mandate) - Municipal separate steward program - EPA -
    - b. Could have a special presentation at an EAC meeting
    - c. Heidi recommended assessing another area closer to Kid's Castle for a native garden expansion - Dave T. said he would look to the EAC for recommendations for which one to address
      - i. Over 30 basins in the Township - May want to consider basins outside of Central Park - Dave suggested the large wet basin on Ash Way
      - ii. Ash Way would be a good 2nd Watershed Friendly Property for certification after Central Park
    - d. Jen Herring mentioned that a Township resident was very upset at a recent board meeting b/c of the naturalization that was done to a basin
    - e. NEED TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS on the Naturalization of the Basins
  - b. Lou from Pine Run pulled a group together to address environmental topics in his community
    - i. Recycling - Collecting newspapers and cardboard
    - ii. Pollinator Garden
    - iii. Decreased use of plastics - trying to utilize reusable - Heidi provided a brief overview of the single use plastic proposal
    - iv. They mentioned Pine Run Reservoir has been mowed a few times at the wrong time of year - Heidi mentioned installing signage for mowing in only March
      1. Kevin Spenser is the person at the county level to get in touch with to address mowing for this area since it is owned/managed by Bucks Co.
    - v. Jim offered to attend a future Pine Run environmental meeting
    - vi. Jeannine suggested having Pine Run branded reusable bags
4. Ongoing Business and Subcommittees
    - a. Suggestion to host the annual EAC Network Conference - Heidi mentioned this as an idea for 2023
      - i. Heidi will circle back with them and let them know we will consider hosting in 2023 – not enough bandwidth to host this summer.
      - ii. We already do a local summit in the summer
    - b. Butler Pike Native Plan median meadow
      - i. Methods and timing
      - ii. Jeannine provided history - previously planted with sedums but they didn't last long
      - iii. Growth can't be too high due to blocking traffic
      - iv. Tilling would need to be done multiple times if done at all b/c it exposes millions of weed seeds
      - v. Borough has planted medians in front of Wawa with short carex species but they have had their own issues
      - vi. Will need traffic control and safety measures for any work in that area
        1. Grasses in medians must maintain height of <36"

2. Median near Our Lady of Guadeloupe is a good example of median plantings - EAC outing
- vii. Jeannine suggested sheet mulching (cardboard) and leaf mold for the median since it has edges
  1. Medians are roughly 140 ft long by 10 ft wide
- c. Table Events and scheduling
  - i. Volunteers and dates
    1. Many events happening in Central Park this year - EAC agreed to cover 4 events
    2. EAC Homework - Each member is asked to review the Township concert series and provide a couple of dates that they would be willing to cover
      - a. Need to let Stephanie know when EAC will set up tables
      - b. Jim said that we have many materials to share at the table
      - c. 2 of the events should have a focus on Watershed Friendly Properties - using the Enviroscope
      - d. Heidi requested a table for BirdTown
      - e. EAC will have a 20x20 tent and can work with Karen to
        - i. Will have EAC table and then alternate Watershed Friendly and BirdTown
- d. Strategic Plan next steps - Curt received some feedback but need to recirculate the final version - Jim to resend before his vacation and will wrap up next month
  - i. Bird Town Update
    1. 2 Bird walks in April (6 and 26 people respectively)
    2. Bird walks this weekend - Migration weekend
    3. June 4 Bird Walk at Chapman Park
    4. Nest Watch moving along nicely
    5. Bird Walk Sept 18 at Font Hill/Mercer - recommending Nesting Boxes and they are interested in Native Plant pop up garden
    6. Jeannine reminded Heidi to put BirdTown events in the Central Park announcement case
    7. Bird Town resolution - Heidi to share with Stephanie for the Board to pass
    8. Bird Town meeting on May 12
    9. Bird Town Native plant swap/sale - Heidi to speak to Jeannine
  - ii. Ready for 100/Energy Transition Plan
    1. Jim spoke to chair of Borough EAC about partnering with us for the LCAP (DEP working with Penn St.) using the ICLEI process
      - a. Warrington went through this process and would be willing to help us work through the bumps
      - b. Middletown went through the process and won an award for their plan - Stephanie has contact at Middletown
  - iii. Solar Broker evaluations
    1. Discussions with Doylestown Borough
    2. We currently have a current solar evaluation underway
      - a. Working with the Stone House Group to evaluate solar
      - b. Will bring plan to the BOS on June 21 (finalizing their plan on May 31)

- i. Stephanie expressed caution with proceeding with Station A
  - ii. Stone House Group is an engineering group that would design the solar array to provide placement for the panels on the new building as well as Township building - they will then design the proposal and get bids and manage the financing
  - iii. Concern with Station A b/c Township has to avoid Design-Bid-Build all from one entity
    - 1. Station A could still participate in the bid process
    - 2. The EAC would like to review the bid documents before it is issued
- iv. Watershed Friendly Township Properties
  - 1. Assessing basin and native plant garden on May 20 at 6:30 for Certification
- v. Single use plastic
  - 1. Business survey and site visits - starting the end of May
  - 2. Heidi created a survey for businesses
  - 3. Jim is putting the survey into Survey Monkey
  - 4. Kurt volunteered to do some in-person interviews/surveys
  - 5. Jim suggested taking out an ad in the Chamber of Commerce - Kurt raised concern with this as we may get spammers
  - 6. Stephanie suggested keeping the Board informed of who EAC is speaking to - Heidi will send the list of stores and dates that are currently planned
- vi. Native American Memorial
  - 1. Bucks Beautiful will supply plants - Denise
  - 2. Chad & Marcello to put together a proposal and come back to the EAC in 2 months

Next Meeting June 14 at 6:30 pm