

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2022 @ 6:30pm

J. Baldassarre (Chair)
C. Clem
J. Herring (Supervisor)
Marcello Mangano (Guest)
Alice Marcy (Guest)
J. Mitchell
Erich Neal (Guest)
Karen Ogden (Guest, BC Conservation District)
Lisa Pearson (TWP Parks and Rec: Rec Program Manager)
C. Sawyer
H. Shiver
A. Walizer (Asst. TWP Manager)

1. Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m, where J. Baldassarre welcomed everyone, including our new EAC member, Chad Clem.

2. Minutes review and approval: The January meeting minutes were reviewed, correction for Ryan Manion's name spelling. H. Shiver motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by J. Mitchell and the motion was approved.

a. H. Shiver agreed to be the note taker for this meeting.

3. Budget review and budget items: EAC has a balance of \$5500. The 1981.99 is for reconciliation and should be ignored on the general ledger and a note for the finance department. The Poole's Corner trees were paid for out of the 2021 budget and also the Bucks Beautiful membership.

4) New Business

a) Parks Master Plan: The EAC members are to review the documents that were emailed to us and provide feedback to provide different perspectives. EAC members are to review and take notes, then send to Jim before our next EAC meeting on March 8th and he will collate the responses. We will discuss together and then send suggestions to Park and Rec. What could be added, changed, moved, consider invasive plant areas, where could an activity be added, consider environmental education center, etc.

b) BC Conservation District proposal: Karen Ogden discussed how we could work together and shared about the program that's been developed, "Got Mud", as a program to reach out to residents and provide tools for common backyard problems. They are looking for partners, which include Archewilde, and have been working with Karen Sweeney from our Parks and Rec. They will create a full color brochure. They are reaching out to folks who are familiar with these issues to help. They will be working with Wild Lands and be part of their Earth Day Weekend,

April 24th from 10-12. They have also met with J. Mitchell as a first step. The presentation will include the core concepts about soil, water, compaction, runoff. There will be 3 stations: Store (rain barrels, cisterns, bogs), 2. Soak (2 types of rain gardens 3. Slow (show flow and stop erosion by encouraging native plants and tree plantings). Each station will have a 'recipe'.

Our EAC can help by providing items such as nest boxes, which J. Baldassarre has donated; print materials including our native plant brochure, pesticide brochure; rain barrels, which we will be borrowing, advertising – we offered to provide contact info to all the EACs.

J. Baldassarre mentioned that now under the new infrastructure bill money will be made available purchase and distribute rain barrels, and we should look into how to acquire and distribute them.

We should consider how we could educate more about this issue, perhaps creating a Tik Tok mini video to reach a broader audience. J. Mitchell said that we should consider having a regional environmental expo for the future and could be part of an Earth Day event.

c) Bucks County Chamber of Commerce Architectural & Environmental Committee
Earth Day presentation: J. Baldassarre has met with this group and they are looking for help with their event, focusing on single-use plastic use reduction and recycling this year. They have invited us to their next virtual meeting on 2/22, which J. Baldassarre and H. Shiver will attend. This dovetails nicely with our focus on single-use plastics this year as well.

d) Lisa Pearsall and Environmental Programs for Children: We welcomed and congratulated her on her 1 year anniversary. She shared that GeoVentures was hired to run a 2 week summer camp which will include activities such as spy training, learn to walk quietly, sneak and seek, etc.

They are looking for instructors and are open and flexible and happy to work with us and to provide help with topics such as veggie gardening, composting, etc.

J. Mitchell shared how she has worked with Kutz Elementary in providing a habitat walk in May for the 2nd graders – this could be expanded to include a special walk through the native plant expansion area where 7-8 stations could be set up, including looking under logs for fungus, etc.

A Story Walk – a permanent or temporary fixture, was also discussed where children could read an environmentally themed book – as they walked along and read the book, an activity could be paired with it. It would best to have it along a paved walkway, so parents with strollers would have access.

It was also mentioned that we need to attract more children at our table events – “Kids in Nature” – an activity set up to engage them. An ‘Enviroscape’ was suggested and A. Marcy shared that they cost about \$800-900. H. Shiver suggested borrowing one from PVNC or Bucks Audubon.

Table events should be discussed further at next meeting.

J. Mitchell also suggested that kite flying would also be a fun activity to add as an activity for our parks.

5) Ongoing Business and Subcommittees

a) Single use plastic reduction: J. Baldassarre shared that the Resolution passed unanimously by the BoS and thanked H. Shiver for her work on this issue. H. Shiver shared that she has reached out to Mark Hayden, department head at CB, to see what has already been done at the HS on this issue. She and J. Baldassarre will be working on compiling a business list and making plans to visit some local township businesses for feedback of how they feel about this issue and what can be done to reduce. Perhaps at table events, a competition could be set up for the best design to be created for a reusable bag for our TWP. Curt offered to identify vendors that offer environmentally friendly take-out containers. A window decal was also suggested for businesses that do reduce single-use plastics – “EAC certified”.

b) Strategic Plan: C. Sawyer has created a template for a new 3-year plan including main categories. We need to discuss this further and start filling in specific tasks, who, timing, etc. and everyone’s input will be needed. Send ideas to Curt by next meeting. H. Shiver mentioned that it’s good to continue to have quarterly reviews.

c) Watershed Friendly properties presentation: Kara Raymond, Tanya Casas, Jeannine Mitchell and Mimi Volker (co-chair of the project), a subcommittee will be meeting 2/25, 3/10 and 3/18 in person @ 3 p.m to continuing planning for their presentation. Penn State Extension will provide handouts and a banner can be kept in Aaron’s office. Information has been shared with Kutz Elementary and CB West teachers. J. Herring suggested contacting the Environment Club at Lenape Middle School and also the Bait and Tackle and engage fishermen and the Trout Unlimited organization. Also, in March or April, a team of Master Watershed Stewards will assess the environmental education center by the garden for potentially easy certification.

It was suggested to explain more about what a ‘watershed’ is and make it more understandable – “We all live downstream” or use the term, ‘water management’, which residents may be able to relate better too, especially after all the flooding events. The meeting will be held in the main conference room of the TWP building on **March 22, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** to present the WFP certification program to the public.

d) Butler Pike Native Plan median planting: After discussion, the work will be done on **April 30th from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00** with 2 shifts, where the medians will be tilled using 2 large machines, raked, seeded and tamped. J. Mitchell will send an email out to her Native Plant Garden team asking for help. Jeff Schumacher and D’town Boro should be asked about help with watering. TWP trucks will be put in place as physical buffers and provide signage. J. Baldassarre will take care of refreshments and water and he also mentioned it should be videotaped and photographed, before and after.

e) 1. Bird Town Action Plan: H. Shiver shared that the TWP Bird Town Jan. 25 meeting went well, despite low attendance, with lots of good ideas. She will work with A. Walizer to update the website with the new information about the program. Working with Drew Heimark, Director of GIS mapping for Bucks, a new set of maps were created showing the location of our Bluebird Nesting Boxes, just in time for the Clean-out on Feb. 19, with 10 volunteers helping this year, some working as they have time. Their next virtual meeting is **March 10 @ 7 p.m.**

Also, we will be partnering more with the other local Bird Towns, including bird walks with New Britain Boro and Chalfont at the Pine Run Reservoir and also with Doylestown Boro at Fontheill. Also, we will be focusing on creating a mosquito habitat checklist to address West Nile Virus which is impacting our local bird populations, including Great Horned Owl, Chickadees, American Crow and Tufted Titmouse and providing some articles about it without using pesticides. J. Mitchell also reminded us that the Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up starting on Feb. 18, and H. Shiver will put together a FB post to engage our residents about this event.

E. Neal shared that at Core Creek Park, there's a Moontree, (American Sycamore) 1 of 5 in PA, whose seed went to the moon in 1971 and was planted in April 1976.

Also, New Britain TWP is looking to become a Tree City and J. Mitchell has been in touch with Megan Leahy about this.

2. Pesticide Reduction Culminating Event: On **March 3 @ 6 p.m.**, Richard McCoy will be presenting: "Introduction to Organic, Ecological and Sustainable Land Care" as part of the the One Health Seminar Series by Delaware Valley University. Heidi will send A. Walizer information to include on FB and everyone should get the word out about this final event from the pesticide reduction work we did last year.

f) Ready for 100/Energy Transition Plan: Next steps include creating a sub-committee for the stakeholders in our community including businesses, residents, big fleet owners, commercial facilities. Who are they – Del Val, CBSD, Doylestown Hospital, YMCA, etc. C. Sawyer suggested creating a grading rubric to determine the large entities. A. Walizer will talk with the TWP tax collector to help identify the top 10 enterprises/consumers.

i) Presentation to BoS completed: J. Baldassarre thanked C. Sawyer for a powerful presentation.

ii) Touch-a-truck (**May 14**): J. Baldassarre is looking to have an all electric delivery truck and has reached out Fred Beans and others. We should highlight our EV charger.

g) EAC Brochure: J. Baldassarre reviewed Warrington's version and feels that it doesn't reflect the concept he has in mind for ours and will refer to this at another meeting.

6. Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.