

Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

MARCH 14, 2023

ATTENDEES: Attendees: Jim Baldassare, Chad Clem, Stacy Crandell, Jeannine Mitchell, Erich Neal, Curt Sawyer, Heidi Shiver, Anne Woodbury, Jen Herring, Dan Wood

- Public Comment
- Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2023
 - APPROVED
- Budget Review
 - No money spent yet
- Renew support for Bucks Beautiful
 - Stacy added to the budget for 2023

New Business

- EAC Brochure
 - Kara Raymond and Jim pulling together the text for the EAC Brochure and will ask for feedback from the team offline after the meeting
 - Tabling events for summer concerts this year will be limited due to the construction on the new building and EAC will likely not be able to table
 - Team should brainstorm around other tabling opportunities
 - Library
 - Central Park on non-event nights
- Seed packets for table events
 - Anne will look into ordering new seeds from Monarch Watch for new seed packs
 - Team discussed bulk seed from Ernst in Western PA, but team wanted to err on the side of ease
 - Recommended ordering 250 due to lack of tabling events summer 2023
- Dark Skies Initiative
 - Heidi will research other existing ordinances to see what we could apply to Doylestown TWP
 - TWP currently has a lighting ordinance but it doesn't address on/off
 - Are there TWP buildings that can adjust their lighting
 - Can we work with the car dealerships to adjust lighting since they are big emitters
 - Stacy recommended that the TWP staff communicate to the dealerships
 - Could we create an ordinance for new construction with new compliance requirements?
 - Planning Commission would write the ordinances
 - Erich will pass along recommendations to Jen to share with Planning Commission
 - Do we have guidance on the TWP website - Erich to put it together
- Plant removals around the Central Park retention basin
 - Bird Blind was recently damaged due to rock throwing and other vandalism
 - Huge amount of debris was removed from the detention basin and then strewn around the park

- We should inform external volunteers that they are not allowed to volunteer in the park unless it is part of a coordinated team - Jeannine will reiterate with Master Gardeners

Ongoing Activities and Updates

- Bird Town Updates
 - Nest Box Clean out - 9 volunteers - 32 boxes
 - Replaced 1 box
 - Missing 1 box
 - Nest Watch - 4 volunteers - Start in early/mid April
 - 22 Boxes will be monitored
 - Bird Walks

- May 24 - Volunteer Day - with Penn Community Bank - Focus on invasive education and removal - specifically Burning Bush
- Heidi will reach out to the Telecommunications Board
- Bird Town Virtual Tree Giveaway - This Thursday (3/16)
 - Heidi suggested we look into doing that as well
- Birdathon - May 5 & 6 - Sit in near the Native Plant Demonstration Garden with

- Lenape Recognition Garden
 - Saturday April 22 - 9-12 -
 - Doylestown Historical Society asked to video the event
 - Jen Herring will pass along information to Jim
 - Jeannine mentioned that she learned earlier today that the Lenape group that we have been working through
 - Need signage to indicate that work is being done

- Student Volunteer request
 - Stacy received a request for volunteers for the Earth Day/Arbor Day Events
 - Could we offer the students the other events
 - Arbor Day tree planting at disc golf
 - Watershed Friendly Properties - Sheridan Rd. & Ashe Way work is good
 - Native Plant demo garden can also host student volunteers
 - Jeannine asked for permission for one more work day at Sheridan Rd and Stacy agreed
 - Plants will be donated in April and the volunteers will need to get in to plant them (another work day in April)
 - Some of the plant material could go to Ash Way

- Native Garden Consultation service
 - Swarthmore has an Eco Audit Service - Heidi will share info with Chad
 - Heidi also said she would be interested in volunteering
 - Chad to route verbiage to EAC for feedback before next meeting
 - Native Plant sourcing - Jeannine - Jim mentioned we need to document this institutional knowledge
 - Conservation district
 - Master Gardeners
 - Master Watershed Stewards are propagating plants
 - Jeannine requested a grant from the Xerces for 1100 plugs

- Support for BC Conservation District grant
 - Karen Ogden wrote a grant to do some remediations in Bucks Co.
 - Will be forming a steering committee and EAC will have one seat
- Single Use Plastic Ordinance process check
 - Jim shared Doylestown Borough ordinance with the Solicitor - Stacy has not heard back from him and expected it to take a few months to review - earliest is likely Fall '23 for a Public hearing
 - Stacy encouraged to funnel information to her around this topic that can be posted through the TWP communication channels
 - Recommended communication/education as a first step followed by ordinance
 - Stacy mentioned that the enews reaches 1100+ TWP residents each week
- Climate Action Plan working group update
 - Kurt and Jim have been meeting with the Borough group discussing action items
 - Penn State student has been able to do much of the analysis thus far but he will be leaving soon and EAC will need to run the models to determine the impacts
- Touch a truck event
 - Jim working to have some electric vehicles at the Touch a truck event

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:00PM