

Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2023

ATTENDEES: Attendees: Jim Baldassare, Heidi Shiver, Stacy Crandell, Jeannine Mitchell, Marcello Mangano, Curt Sawyer, Anne Woodbury, Jen Herring

- Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2023
 - Approved with minor edits.
- Budget Review
 - About \$2807 remaining, which includes \$500 donated by Bird Town (and eligible to carry over to next year's budget).
- New Business
 - Heidi Shiver notes a very large patch of Knotweed on the Neshaminy Creek trail that is encroaching on the stream. It will be very difficult to eradicate but some action should be considered. The TWP has no resources available for this now. It might be a project for the Master Watershed Stewards.
 - The idea of a deer fence in Hart's Woods was offered. This would allow the forest to regenerate itself without deer pressure. Stacy Crandell believes that this will be infeasible due to costs, staff time and the continual problem of vandalism. Anne Woodbury will speak to the Heritage Conservancy to see if they have any interest in such a project.
 - Jeannine Mitchell notes that we will be receiving trees this fall from the BC Conservation District, with tree guards, which can be planted in Hart's Woods. Some trees will also go to the Ash Way property (scheduled for Sept 23). We will need volunteers for both events.
- Ongoing Business:
 - Strategic Plan Review.
 - The plan was reviewed briefly. Most things are progressing. Specific comments should be sent to Curt Sawyer to be incorporated. Anne Woodbury has also suggested that we create a summary or a shortened format.
 - Joint Meeting with Parks and Rec in October
 - Parks and Rec have confirmed a joint meeting on Tuesday October 10 at 6:30 pm. An agenda has been drafted. We will add an additional topic of 'Environmental Programming' to be considered. Many programs are already available through the Penn State Extension, and we can aim to begin in Summer 2024.
 - Recycling Facility tour at WM, Philadelphia
 - A tour is scheduled for October 24 with 5 participants. The start time will be confirmed.
 - Heritage Tree Program
 - Anne Woodbury and Marcell Mangano certified 6 trees in the TWP and certificates were created and distributed. The listing of Heritage trees on the

website needs to be updated. A range finder was purchased to facilitate tree measurements.

- Annual Summit

Jeannine Mitchell has agreed to give a 'Lightening Round' presentation on the Watershed Friendly Properties program applied to TWP owned properties, Oct 21 in Chester.

- Bird Town Updates

Penn Community Bank Employee Volunteer Day Follow-up: Burning Bush stems will be treated with herbicide in the fall. We will plan for a mid-October planting using trees and shrubs ordered from Karen Ogden. We should also consider planting Blackhaw Viburnum to support Wood Thrush.

Our Central Bucks Bird Town Clutch (Doylestown Boro, Solebury, New Britain Boro, Chalfont Boro, Doylestown Township) met for dinner at the Waterwheel Tavern on June 30th and discussed events and activities that we could work together on including:

- addressing mowing in CBSD,
- providing education and signage regarding the Swift population at Linden Elementary,
- identifying possible places to have samples and demonstrate how to protect windows from Bird Collisions. It was suggested that YMCA, Del Val (cafeteria) or Terrain might be interested.
- encouraging New Britain Township and Buckingham to become Bird Towns,
- showing a birdy movie in Spring 2024 at the County Theatre and include a native plant pop-up garden with an educational table, etc.

Fall Migration Bird Walks all in Central Park starting at 8:30 AM

- Sunday, September 24: Karen Isett
- Saturday, October 14 World Bird Migration Day: Diane Smith

Will plan to hold a Native Plant Sale on Oct. 14 after the walk, starting at 10 until 1. I will contact Gino's Nursery to see if this date will work for them.

Nest Watch monitoring has ended. Here are the preliminary findings:

Twenty-one boxes were monitored by 6 volunteers, who visited the boxes a total of at least 44 times. There were 6 Bluebird nests, with 21 eggs and only 6 fledglings confirmed, with likely more surviving; 7 Tree Swallow nests with 20 eggs and 19 fledglings confirmed.

There were several issues to help understand the lower numbers this year from volunteers being sick/injured and also some continued issues with eggs disappearing, likely taken by predators. Guards are much needed. The shape of the poles makes it challenging to buy conventional ones, so I'm proposing using buckets where a hole could be drilled on the bottom and slit up the side for

easier installation. See attached photo from buckets used in Manheim Township. Marcello suggested milk jugs.

- Native Plant Garden/Central Park Pond/Lenape Garden
 - Native Demo Garden. There were 9 volunteers this month. Jeannine believes we should schedule more workdays next year during the warmer months. She also noted a change in the scheduled workdays for August/September: cancel the 8/25 workday and add 9/2 workday. Finally, the EAC website needs to be updated and a picture catalog of the NPDG should be added.
 - Central Park Pond – Thriving. Turtles seem to like it.
 - Native American plant garden. Also thriving and filling in beautifully. Signage is needed. Anne, Marcello, Chad, and Jeannine will work on this. Final wording to be reviewed by the Delaware nation people.
 - The Pollinator Palace is weathering and needs to be maintained. We will check with Erich on the best timing for this.

 - Climate Action Planning/Board Presentation August 15
 - Jim and Kurt providing an update to the BOS on August 15.
 - List of top 25 commercial energy users in the TWP will be contacted for business community feedback.

 - Watershed Friendly Properties (Sheridan Rd/Ash Way)
 - Project was slowed due to the bid process on the tree removal
 - Team will stop collecting cardboard for the effort
 - Jeannine to communicate to Kara Raymond
 - Next Ash Way workday is September 23.

 - Single Use plastics action
 - Legal review pending

 - Adjournment
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM