

# Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

## DECEMBER 12, 2023

### ATTENDEES:

- Public Comment
  - None
- Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 2023 and October EAC/P&R Meeting
  - Both sets of meeting minutes approved.
- The EAC voted to permit a modification to the agenda to discuss the BoS request for a list of 2023 accomplishments by December 21
  
- Budget Review
  - Approximately \$2585 remains unspent. Any unspent funds will roll into 2024.
  - Fossil Sign PO
    - With shipping the Lenape Garden sign will cost just over \$500, and there are adequate funds to cover this.
  
- New Business
  - EAC Chair for 2024
    - Jim Baldassarre was voted to continue as EAC Chair in 2024.
  - EAC Vacancy
    - Jeannine Mitchell has resigned from the EAC, and a vacancy has been posted. The EAC thanks Jeannine for 10 years of passionate leadership.
  - Future management of the NPDG
    - Jeannine Mitchell has put forward a plan to continue the regular activity in the NPDG and a list of individuals who are willing to participate in a leadership committee. Communication with Chris Mason is important. J. Baldassarre will coordinate. J. Mitchell also passed over a load of files as well as the key to the message board.
  - Future Management of the Watershed Friendly Properties
    - Jeannine Mitchell has also communicated a plan to complete the planned activity at the Sheridan Road property. The tree work has been completed. Herbicide will be used twice in 2024 (spring and again in early summer), followed by smothering with cardboard and mulch. Trees can be densely planted in fall 2024.
  - Native Plant Garden Celebration
    - Central Park Garden Celebration will be held on June 22 to celebrate 10 years of the NPDG and many other related activities. Many ideas were put forward. H. Shiver will collate the ideas into a framework and J. Baldassarre will schedule a meeting of the subcommittee in January.
  - The Board of Supervisors have requested a list of EAC activities and accomplishments by December 21. All EAC members will email their lists to J. Baldassarre by the end of the week for collation.
  
- Ongoing Activities and Updates
  - Bird Town Update

- Heidi Shiver provided a list of recent activities including recent tree planting in Hart's Woods, and a calendar of activities for 2024. Andrea Susten will arrange for temporary signage in the planted area to inform visitors.
- Heritage Tree Program
  - Anne Woodbury reports that there are 7 more requests for Heritage Tree evaluations and these will be done when the trees have leaves.
- Light Pollution
  - The problem of light pollution on the environment was discussed. Nighttime lightning disrupts the life cycle of insects, birds and bats, particularly when birds are migrating. Individual lights are a problem, but so is the general use of outdoor lighting everywhere, especially in Central Park. The EAC advocates for the use of 'smart switches' such as timers and motion sensors to minimize unneeded lighting, which will reduce light pollution and also save electricity. Doylestown Borough has recently adopted a lighting ordinance. Eric Neal will survey some of the other township properties to see what lights are in use. J. Baldassare will arrange a meeting with the township staff to see what is possible and what are the plans for new lighting the the parks.
- Adjournment

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM**