

Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2024

ATTENDEES: Jim Baldassare (Chair), Chad Clem (Secretary), Judy Dixon (TWP Supervisor), Marcello Mangano, Erich Neal, Heidi Shiver (Vice Chair), Andrea Susten (Asst TWP Manager), Anne Woodbury

- We welcome Marcello Mangano as the newest member of the EAC.
- Public Comment: none

- Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 2024: Upon motion by Anne Woodbury, seconded by Heidi Shiver, the EAC February minutes were approved without changes.

- Budget Review
 - \$7440 available this year, but Andrea to review an ongoing discrepancy in the General Ledger

- New Business
 - Neshaminy Watershed Consortium: At the most recent BoS meetings, the Supervisors indicated support for the TWP joining a new Watershed Consortium being organized by the Bucks County Conservation District (Karen Ogden). A formal vote will happen next meeting. The Consortium is asking for 1 or 2 volunteers from the TWP to join a board. Andrea Susten and Erich Neil have volunteered to support this.

- Ongoing Activities and Updates
 - Arbor Day - Friday April 26
 - Plant trees along the Neamand Trail, which will be supported by the TWP staff.
 - Chad will create a LOME invitation to be distributed.
 - Anne will man a table with refreshments.
 - The EAC discussed the possibility of placing deer fencing in some area of Hart's Woods to allow the forest to regenerate. Fencing would be very unobtrusive and would need to remain in place for several years, until saplings could survive deer browsing. Dan McBride can advise on this. Heidi and Jim will walk the area to see what looks best.

 - Single Use Plastic Bag Ban
 - Judy Dixon informs us that the plastic bag ban is progressing. Public meeting on March 19 and BoS vote in May. EAC will prepare materials to inform the community and business owners.
 - The EAC discussed purchasing reusable tote bags as give-aways but noted that cloth bags are more expensive than the plastic reusable. This will be revisited next month. Jim will check what Caldwell's can offer locally. Andrea Susten will consider some possible logos or images.

 - Native Plant Gardens and related activities

- The Native American Garden sign is in development and several layouts were reviewed. The text may need legal review. Anne will consider the feedback and suggest a final design. Should be in place before the June 22 Garden party.
 - Chad has created a 'LOME" invitation page for the workdays and has distributed it to the usual volunteer group. Will also share with P&R Committee and CB West HS.
 - Andrea will distribute information about a documentary film about the Lenape people to be shown at Del Val.

- Garden Celebration June 22 - 10 AM - 1 PM
 - Plans are coming along. TAB has agreed to do a video promotion and will try to get some video at the April 27 work day.
 - Jim has identified a jazz duo (Larry Tamanini) to play the event and the EAC voted up to \$400 for that.
 - Andrea will look for nonalcoholic botanical beverages and create some promotional materials.
 - Anne will get an estimate for snacks
 - Jim will contact Kona Ice about having an ice cream truck there.
 - Heidi and Marcello are developing a scavenger hunt and prizes.
 - Jim will draft a list of tasks and volunteers.
 - Township will assist with tables, chairs, canopies and signage

- BirdTown update
 - Heidi gave a detailed report on Bird Town. The Bird Town program is flourishing state-wide.
 - Doylestown received a Silver Certification, with 859 volunteer hours recorded. An area for improvement would be to include more events with students.
 - More bluebird boxes will be installed.
 - The 'cat' brochure has been distributed to vet offices, and EAC voted \$100 to print more.
 - Central Park bird walk is scheduled for May 18

- Westwyck
 - EAC voted \$100 to purchase native plant plugs for an educational event hosted by BirdTown and EAC at the Westwyck Townhouses.
 - Event slated for mid-May - Heidi is EAC/BT lead

- Ready for 100
 - Shared Energy Manager (provided by the state) working with Curt and Jim
 - We have provided vehicle fleet information for evaluation.
 - Curt and Andrea are working on compiling township energy use data for analysis.
 - The township area on Lower State Rd is not suitable for a ground mounted solar system for a couple of reasons. A property in Turk Park has been proposed as an alternative, and the EAC will evaluate this option.

- Watershed Friendly Properties
 - Sheridan Rd property

- Herbicide treatments in April and mulching in May
- Nighttime lighting in the TWP
 - Erich Neal had an article published in the Herald on this subject. The article will be posted to the township website and the notice board.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 7:00PM