

**EAC MEETING MINUTES**

April 3, 2024

6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The April 3, 2024 meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm with the following individuals in attendance.

Jon West	Chair
Scott McCartney	Vice Chair
Mark Smith	Member
Dennis Wendt	Member
Rebecca Moodie	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Joanne Walker, Tom Alvarez and Commissioner Denise Hull were absent.

Present from the public: Shane Dorward, Tom Steinmetz

2. Minutes of March 11, 2024

Upon motion of Mr. Wendt, seconded by Mr. Smith, the meeting minutes of March 11, 2024 were approved unanimously.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Alvarez would like to provide shade trees at the entrance (right side) at Parkside Place, throughout the trail system at Parkside Place and at Nor Gwyn Pool to make up for the loss of Ash Trees. This would involve some careful selection of trees with possible plantings in October. Mr. Smith said a 2 – 2 ½ inch caliper tree approximately 10' tall would run about \$275.00 each. They discussed several groups that may donate trees for the planting. The planting of a heritage elm tree was discussed. There is a possibility that we can reallocate money planned for either a fall giveaway or the Haines Run Project to use for planting trees.

Ms. Weaver said Mrs. Prebis is looking to start a memorial tree program and will check to see what she has planned. Mr. West suggested we do a walk around Parkside Place with Mrs. Prebis and someone from the pool commission this spring.

3. Old Business**a. Initiatives****i. Environmental Education/Outreach**

- Arbor Day Native Plant Giveaway

April 27th at 9 am – 12 pm. There are 350 wildflowers and 130 trees with total of \$3,608.

Parks/Rec staff will pull the burlap bags and have them ready to fill. The committee will fill the bags and set up on Friday with delivery expected also.

Mr. Smith, Ms. Walker, Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Weaver and Mrs. Logan will work the tree giveaway.

- Wissahickon Creek Clean up

Mr. West and Mr. McCartney have 12 – 15 volunteers to help work the clean up on the stretch between the WWTP and Swedesford Road at the Evans-Mumbower Mill

- Unplugged Week

On June 20th during Unplugged Week, the EAC will host a Home Composting Workshop at 6 pm and a Zero Waste Workshop at 7 pm. Mr. West will speak with Eve about keeping the Zero Waste Workshop to about an hour, then questions.

- Earth Day

Mrs. Prebis asked if the committee has any ideas for Earth Day on 4/22 or if anyone wants to volunteer. The Parks and Rec initiative is planet vs plastic. The EAC can set up a tri fold info board from Penn State Extension. The EAC can provide logo bags and metal straws for the event.

- Social media and e-newsletter content

Ms. Weaver will begin advertising the Tree/Plant giveaway on Thursday or Friday.

ii. Natural Resources and Open Space

- Comprehensive Recreation, Park & Open Space Plan

Comments were submitted from the EAC. Mr. Wendt attended the meeting and summarized the following. There were approximately 30 residents in attendance at the meeting at the public was very engaged in the discussions about the trails. A concern was raised about maintenance of the parks. Discussions included a possible renovation to the existing community center, pool renovations, walkable/bikeable connections as well as possible ideas of what to do with the existing parks.

iii. Plastic Waste Reduction

- Program Draft

Mr. West will compile the draft into memo form. Mr. Smith would like to put the program on hold for a year to see how the plastic ban works in Montgomery Township. He feels we would have a better chance of getting people to participate. Mr. McCartney said some businesses may already be practicing some of the criteria and this may encourage them to do more. Mr. West feels we would probably get minimal participation, but it keeps the issue front and center. Mr. Wendt feels we should move forward and send it to the commissioners in hopes of a future ordinance. The committee will finalize the memo.

b. Subcommittees

Mr. West would like to focus more as a committee to possibly form a subcommittee that would handle single initiatives. A discussion ensued regarding possible initiatives. Ms. Weaver said this would have to go before the Board because it would alter the ordinance. The formation of a subcommittee will be outlined in the revised EAC Ordinance with how it will operate. Mr. West said we would have to formalize this as a memo of what the EAC is proposing.

- Plastic Waste reduction
- Sustainability
- Tree Tenders – possible standing committee
- Composting / Recycling

4. Land Development

a. 1327 E. Prospect Avenue

Mr. Smith compiled the EAC comments into a memo. He said we should explore the possibility of suggesting the applicant put the driveway on the left side in order to preserve trees. Mr. West said there appears to be adequate room for setback on the right side, but not on the left. Ms. Weaver said we currently do not have a tree replacement mechanism in place. Mr. Smith mentioned redirecting the water to the back of the property in the PECO right of way and asked if the applicant is building a basement as the fill can be used to regrade the property. Ms. Weaver said our Township Engineer reviews the plans for stormwater and grading. He also suggested a fee in lieu of sidewalks. This is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission next week. They will need dimensional variances from the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Smith said there is a remnant of a hardwood forest with as many of 25 trees being cut down for this construction. We should keep our comments regarding trees in the memo to remind them of the importance of trees. Comments regarding sidewalks and impervious service will be removed as it falls under the review of the engineer. The memo will be revised based on discussion points.

A motion was made by Mr. Wendt to submit the comments as revised, second by Mr. Smith and unanimously approved.

5. New Business / Other Business

Mr. Wendt said he sat on a meeting from the Sustainable Business Network and their “Philly Unwrapped” initiative. They have a 5 prong approach in which they will select 12 businesses in the food sector to reduce and take single use packaging out of use. They are looking for volunteers to join their initiative.

6. Assistant Township Manager’s Report

Ms. Weaver said our engineer is still looking for a CoStars vendor to do the sod removal for the Hartley Drive Meadowization Project. We’ll be working with the Perkiomen Watershed on planting/landscaping design and are looking for volunteers for 3 days of planting in late May 29-31. She reminded everyone of the May 11 E-recycle / Shredding event. We received a grant of \$306,000 for the relocation of the pedestrian bridge to the North Penn Marketplace area. We received the final draft for the LD/Saldo which will go to the PRC for review first then to the Planning Commission and EAC before it goes to the Board.

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

Evans Mumbower Mill Open House on April 21st

Natural Lands Plant Sale on April 14th

8. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Wendt and seconded by Mr. Smith, Mr. West adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 1, 2024 @ 6 pm