

**EAC MEETING MINUTES**

March 30, 2023

6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The March 30, 2023 meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held in person.

Jon West	Chair
Scott McCartney	Member via phone
Sherry Chen	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member via phone
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Also present was Leigha Getty, Parks and Recreation Coordinator.

Commissioner Denise Hull and Joanne Walker were absent.

James De Sonier, Scott Lucas, Shane Dorward and Dennis Wendt were present from the public.

2. Minutes of February 1, 2023

Upon motion of Ms. Chen, seconded by Mr. McCartney, the meeting minutes of February 1, 2023 were approved unanimously.

3. Old Business**a. Initiatives**

- i. Environmental Education/Outreach
 - PECO Energy Audit – Recap

Ms. Chen said the Energy Audit Presentation went well and was very informative.

- ii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force
 - Ready for 100 presentation – recap

The presentation was in conjunction with the Planning Commission and was given by Bill Sabie on behalf of the Sierra Club. Mr. West said it was a good conversation to have. Further conversations on implementation are needed in the future. Mr. McCartney said there are components of the presentation that can be started sooner than others. First step is a resolution committing to Ready for 100 then a transition to sustainable energy.

- iii. Natural Resources and Open Space
 - Haines Run Streambank Improvement Project

Mr. West said the project begins at Haines Runs and Wissahickon Creek and moves upstream with stormwater dissipation. We received \$946,000 in grants for the project. We are currently in the engineering and design phase of the project to be followed by permitting. The bid process is

expected to occur in July with construction beginning in September. The EAC has offered to help with public education and engage with residents about how to properly maintain their property once the project is underway. He offered a Stream Smart House Call program which is an audit on stormwater that gives detailed recommendations. The first subcommittee group will be in April and Mrs. Walker is a part of the committee.

- Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study

Mr. West asked if there is an opportunity for the EAC to be involved in the study. Ms. Weaver said there is a 12-member subcommittee with the first meeting in April. No additional help is needed at this time but there may be opportunities during the review of the draft plan.

- PWC Municipal Grant Program

This grant is for stormwater protection. Mrs. Walker will begin the application process for the grant. Mr. West asked if there is a spot for a rain garden or meadowization at one the parks. Ms. Weaver said we applied for this grant last year for a meadowization project and we were unsuccessful. The grant is for \$5000. Mr. West suggested a raingarden, rain barrel and signage at the Community Center. As part of the application, they need to have information on what the Township can contribute (equipment, manpower, etc.). Mr. Dorward suggested downspout planters using rain barrels as a reservoir for added absorption. Mr. West will schedule a meeting with Mrs. Prebis and Mr. Chabala so we can proceed with the grant application.

iv. Arbor Day (April 29)

- Final Planning and update

The event runs 9 am – 12 pm. The giveaway has “sold out”. Delivery of the plants is expected on Friday, 4/28. Boy Scouts will help with loading plants day of event, and some will arrive prior to event to bag mulch. We need to purchase burlap sacks to fill with mulch. 100 burlap sacks will run approximately \$200. Mr. Alvarez recommended the purchase of 200 bags and half will be filled for the event.

Ms. Chen made a motion to reallocate approximately \$400 of funds from the energy audit budget which was seconded by Mr. McCartney and unanimously approved.

Day of event, Ms. Weaver, Mrs. Logan and EAC members will coordinate the orders for pickup. Mr. Alvarez will get planting information printed. We will need a snow fence placed around trees once they arrive. Mr. West encouraged the public present at the meeting to volunteer to help out the day of event.

v. Rain Barrel Workshop (June 15)

Mrs. Logan created a flyer for the rain barrel event to be used for the Gazette, newsletter and social media. The EAC is covering \$25 of the total \$60 cost.

b. Tree City ordinance

- Reviewed by PRC

The Ordinance is with the MCPC for review to make sure there are no overlaps with zoning and SALDO. Draft recommendations are expected in May.

c. Pesticide/herbicide use in public spaces Memo

- Final review of comments

Mr. West asked for a motion to send the list to the BOC. Motion by Ms. Chen seconded by Mr. McCartney and unanimously approved.

Ms. Weaver will use the memo for a newsletter and social media blast.

This will be added to BOC agenda in April.

- d. Regional Plastic Bag Ban
 - Survey

Preliminary survey results have been supportive with 134 resident responses and 1 business. Next step would be to disseminate the results of the survey to the public. Mr. West gave a proposal to Montgomery Township EAC to see if we can get additional municipalities to participate.

- 4. New Business
 - a. 1 Vacancy – update

There is no update. Mr. McCartney said he may have someone interested in applying for the EAC.

- b. WeConservePA grant application was not approved

Mr. West thanks Mrs. Walker for her efforts.

- c. Info for weekly Gazette

Pesticide info will go into the Gazette and Ms. Weaver asked for more information on bamboo. Mr. Alvarez will send information. Ms. Weaver said we have issues with code enforcement.

Mr. Wendt said he went to a zero-waste seminar and ask is we can host one here? Mr. West said it's a great idea and we will look into it further.

5. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver said we received the tonnage report from the e shred event. We received 8,461 pounds of e-waste and 6,745 pounds of paper which was much less than last year, but the event was impacted by the inclement weather. She asked for a proposal from PAR for a resident drop off for small electronics only. 2 LD 203 Church sketch plan for 2 warehouse buildings and Walters Group for 1500 Pennbrook Parkway will be presenting at BOC meeting on 4/10 and they will follow up with a resident meeting on 4/17 at 6:30 pm.

6. Upcoming Workshops and Events

Wissahickon Creek Clean up is on April 29th.

Wissahickon Trails Open House at Mumbauer Mill on April 19th

7. Adjournment

Mr. Wendt asked for donations of old sneakers to benefit Manna on Main with a collection box in the North Penn Commons.

Mr. West adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 3, 2023 @ 6 pm