



EAC MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2022
6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The February 2, 2022 meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held virtually.

Jon West	Chair
Scott McCartney	Member
Joanne Walker	Member
Erica Antoine	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Denise Hull	Commissioner
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant
Sarah Prebis	Parks and Recreation Director

Brian Hutchinson, Member was absent.

Also present,

Brian Vadino from the Montgomery County Conservation District

Sherry Chen, 241 Acorn Lane, resident – interested in the renewable energy task force and possible volunteer opportunities.

Mike Fellmuth, 122 Cardinal Way, was present to listen in.

2. Minutes January 5, 2022

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Walker, and seconded by Mr. McCartney, the minutes of January 5, 2022 were unanimously approved.

3. Review of Goals/Initiatives

2021 goals

- Public outreach & education
 - Build relationships, have presence at events, host workshops
 - We were limited with COVID restrictions, but managed to make significant progress
- Tree City / Birdtown
 - Some progress has been made and goal is within reach for 2022

- Renewable sustainable energy
 - Committee has more organization for this initiative

2022 goals

- Establish a standardized plan review guideline and process
 - Draft handout for developers / Checklist for committee (in process)
- Green stormwater infrastructure and native plant policies
 - Help incorporate some GSI elements into Township code
 - Design standards
- Environmental outreach and programming
 - Programming for residents, workshops, media blasts and newsletters
 - Continue to build community partnerships
- Native trees, plants and habitats
 - Native tree sale
 - Consideration of post-sale initiatives
 - Lawn to meadow
 - Tree city
- Renewable Energy Task Force
 - In process

4. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Environmental Education and Outreach

Mrs. Antoine presented ideas for potential future workshops to the committee.

1. Potential Future Workshops

- Rain Barrel Workshop (repeat event)
- Raised Gardens
- Presentation on the Salt Watch
- Presentation on the Watershed Friendly Property Program
 - Disconnecting impervious surfaces (driveways, sidewalks, roofs, downspouts)
 - Promoting Infiltration rather than going directly to the stormwater system or directly into streams

Mr. West will contact Erin with Wissahickon Trails regarding the Watershed Friendly Program

- Composting and Organic Gardening
 - Back to Earth Compost Crew (Mr. West will contact)
 - Education & Workshops
 - Possible subsidized composting system

Mr. Vadino may have composting information that he will share with the group via email.

- Creating Nest Boxes for Native Birds
- Lawn Conversions
 - Possible use of patch of land near community garden for the planting of wildflowers for the meadowing effect
 - Children's book on meadowing storytime

Mr. Vadino stated that Abigail Ryder of Penn State Extension was involved in a lawn to meadow conversion, and he can share some information about the demonstration workshop. Mrs. Prebis

said the Township is looking into converting 2 areas into meadows: 1 strip of land near Rexdale Park and 2 small plots of land in front of the WWTP. Mr. Vadino will share information regarding lawn to meadow conversion and can partner with us in the future regarding projects and possible grant funding.

- True Zero Waste Presentation

Mrs. Prebis said the Parks & Rec Department has a Families Unplugged week in June and would like to incorporate one of the above workshops as part of the week's events.

Presentation by Brian Vadino of MCCC (see attached handout)

Mr. Vadino congratulated the Township for the Wissahickon Headwaters Stream & Riparian Buffer Project. He said the mission of the Conservation District is to protect and improve the quality of life of the residents of Montgomery County by providing technical guidance for the wise use of our soil, water and related resources. He gave history and background of the MCCC. The MCCC is involved in the following programs:

- Dirt, gravel and low volume roads grant program
- Erosion & Sediment Control (NPDES)
- Agricultural Conservation
- Education and Outreach
 - Education geared towards natural resource protection and enhancement
 - MC Envirothon – hands on competition for students grades 6-12
 - Environmental Field Day for grades 4 & 5
 - Partners with Penn State Extension on the Master Watershed Stewards Volunteer Program and Master Gardeners
- Watershed Stewardship
 - Training in watershed management to volunteers who then educate the community about watershed stewardship based on research and recommendations
 - Works to improve riparian and wetland areas through streambank stabilization, planting and floodplain restoration.

He said the MCPC has an up-to-date list of funding sourcing as well as the TreeVitalize Watersheds Grant Program and the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund.

He has a wealth of educational information regarding projects that protect and enhance our natural resources. All the information is included in the attached handout.

2. Social Media Blasts

ii. Tree City/Birdtown

1. Tree City ordinance review by MCPC

Ms. Weaver sent a memo summarizing the Tree City Review. This will be reviewed by the UGT Planning Commission at their March meeting. Ms. Weaver said the EAC memo should include any supplemental recommendations the EAC has and whether you agree with Ms. Bice's recommendations. The committee is to send comments to Mr. West by February 18th comments can be compiled into a draft memo to review at the March meeting.

2. Native Tree Sale and Plant Cutting Exchange (Arbor Day Event)

The Tree Sale is on Saturday, April 30th at the pavilion at Parkside Place with information and materials. Location may change. Mrs. Prebis suggested they run the sale in conjunction with Unity for Kindness Day. Mr. West will set up a separate Zoom meeting to discuss the logistics of this event.

Mr. West said we can use some of the money generated from the tree sale to help the Parks/Rec Department with meadow conversion.

Mr. West, Mr. Alvarez and Mr. McCartney will form a subcommittee to discuss logistics of the event.

****Zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 9th at 6 pm**

- iii. Watershed Friendly Property Program
 - This will be replaced with Lawn Conversion Initiative
- iv. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force
 - The Task Force will meet again in 2 weeks
 - They are looking at funding for goals and initiatives
 - They gained background knowledge in what they are going to prioritize
- b. Plan Review Checklist and Questionnaire
- c. Regional Plastic Bag Ban
 - i. Surveys
- d. Winter Salt Watch
 - Has been publicized much more recently

Mr. West will look to get a speaker about the Winter Salt Watch in the fall.

5. New Business

- a. Review of pesticide/herbicide use in public spaces

Mr. West said we may want to have a conversation about this topic. Ms. Weaver will get information about the Township regulations / policies on pesticides/herbicide use.

6. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver reported the BOC met regarding their 2022 goals and this will be shared with the committee next month.

Merck had additional soil that will be used at the Haines Run streambank restoration project. The soil was tested and is acceptable. It will be transferred next week.

There was an oil leak incident in the Township from a heating oil tank in which 200 tons of contaminated soil had to be removed from a property. Our new full time EMC Conor McCann coordinated the cleanup effort so the creek behind the house wasn't affected.

The Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan for Wheatley Walk will be on the BOC agenda in February.

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

- a. EAC Network Conference – Saturday February 26. Virtual, beginning at 10 am
- b. Perkiomen Stream Cleanup – April 1-2.

Mrs. Hull said the EAC recommendations regarding the PEC GSI plan was discussed recently and said all of the recommendations can be done but will take at least 2 years to complete and should be accomplished by the end of 2023.

8. Adjournment

Mrs. Antoine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Walker, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Next Meeting March 2, 2022 @ 6 pm