



EAC MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2022
6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The March 2, 2022 meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held in person.

Jon West	Chair
Erica Antoine	Vice Chair
Scott McCartney	Member
Joanne Walker	Secretary
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Brian Hutchinson was absent

Present from the public - John Tierney, Sherry Chen

Mr. West said according to the EAC bylaws, a vice chair and secretary should be appointed at the first meeting of year. The Board of Commissioners appointed Mr. West as Chair of the EAC at their reorganization meeting in January. The Council appointed Mrs. Antoine as Vice Chair and Mrs. Walker as Secretary.

2. Minutes February 2, 2022

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Walker, and seconded by Mr. McCartney, the minutes of February 2, 2022 were unanimously approved.

3. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Arbor Day Tree Sale

1. Logistics

- 9 am to 12 pm at pavilion on April 30th
- Trees to be delivered on Thursday or Friday prior to event (will be dropped off at pavilion)
- Ms. Weaver/Mrs. Getty to keep track of tree orders
- 60 trees have been ordered
- P&R can use 5 trees if they are leftover
- Pre orders due 1 week in advance (4/22) – use mailbox as drop off for forms

A discussion ensued on the logistics of the pre-order of the trees. Ms. Weaver will post on social media and website. Mr. Alvarez, Mr. Hutchinson, and Mr. West will be part of the sale. Mr. Alvarez will send over planting instructions for printing. Ms. Weaver to secure a cash box. Location of mulch to be determined.

Signage to be created by Mrs. Antoine and Mr. McCartney.

2. Prices, flyer, advertising, etc.
- ii. Environmental Education and Outreach
 - Earth Day

Mrs. Prebis is planting the Community Garden on 4/22 at 1 pm The Committee discussed the following to participate in the Earth Day Event.

- Advertise for tree sale at event
- Committee to have a table with giveaways and information
- Begin lawn to meadow conversion area near the community garden – a discussion ensued on checking ordinance regulations. Mr. Alvarez will research a maintenance plan. Mrs. Walker will research the Township code chapter 146, property maintenance. Mr. West will bring book “On Meadowview Street” and perhaps read to community
- Distribute pollinator seeds to community
- A discussion ensued on Lawn to Meadow conversions in other areas of the Township.

Mrs. Logan to order bugs for upcoming events (COMPLETED).

- Composting Workshop

Mr. West contacted the Back to Earth Compost Crew about a possible partnership with them for a composting workshop and equipment sale

The Committee agreed on Wednesday, September 21st for the workshop which the Committee will help subsidize the cost.

- Rain Barrel Workshop

Ms. Weaver will contact the Perkiomen Creek Watershed to check availability for either May 25th or June 14th. The Committee to subsidize the cost of rain barrel workshop.

- Unplugged Week

Mr. McCartney will research a home energy audit for June 19-25th Other potential events

- iii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force

The Task Force discussed possible goals and priorities

- Recruit members and volunteers (Julie Chen)
- Educational opportunities
- Develop sustainability goals and priorities
 - Brownfields
 - Clean Water
 - Electric Vehicles
 - Renewable Energy
- Possible SALDO change

Task Force would like to have permission to review PECO energy bills for consideration of a possible energy audit.

The Task Force will continue to research

- LCAP Energy Audit Review
- Ready for 100
- Infrastructure Bill

Ms. Chen said approximately 80% of energy usage in UGT is commercial and businesses, not residential. Mr. Alvarez said Merck can partner with the Township on reducing energy uses. The Task Force will further define these priorities

The Task Force recommended some educational opportunities.

- Impact of trees on your energy bill
- Home upgrades to reduce energy usage
- Reducing waste through recycling
- Electric and Hybrid vehicles
- Gas vs electric equipment (dryers, stoves)

Mrs. Walker will work on social media posts about planting trees on your property to lower energy costs.

John Tierney suggested educating the Planning Committee on the Task Force goals and priorities on renewable energy.

Mrs. Antoine will send Ms. Weaver some new website topic links.

4. New Business

a. Plan Review Checklist and Questionnaire

The Final Draft is not yet completed. Mrs. Walker will finalize for review at the next meeting.

b. Tree City ordinance review by MCPC

Mr. West summarized the committee comments. This will go on the Planning Commission agenda for April for review, then to the BOC for discussion on how the ordinance will be created.

This will be added for finalization at the April EAC meeting, prior to the Planning Commission meeting. Consider using the Doylestown Township model with a modified plant list.

c. Review of pesticide/herbicide use in public spaces

Mr. McCartney reviewed Township code and found limited information which was distributed to the Committee. Mrs. Prebis will provide a list of herbicides/pesticides used in the Township.

Mrs. Walker will do a social media blast regarding pesticide/herbicide applications.

d. Regional Plastic Bag Ban

Mr. West said there is a push for area EAC's to join in a plastic bag ban. There are many area municipalities considering ordinances to ban plan bags in their Townships.

- An active discussion ensued with the following outcomes.
- Have active conversation with residents and businesses to see if there is support for the ban
- Survey for residents and businesses
- Results to be publicly posted
- Survey to be reviewed by the Board and publicly discussed
- If favorable, draft an ordinance prohibiting plastic bag use in the Township.

Questions raised

- Need all area municipalities to participate in order to have any impact
- How does this get enforced?

Mrs. Walker said we should do the survey first and see what happens and if residents and businesses will support this. Mrs. Antoine mentioned that a survey will open the door for questions and asked if this bag ban has enough momentum to continue.

Mr. McCartney will see if area municipalities want to participate (NWB, Lansdale, Towamencin).

5. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver reported that a resident recently donated \$6000 in memory of a loved one who was a long time Merck employee. Merck matched the donation so a total of \$12,000 will be spent on revamping the Sensory Garden.

6. Liberty Bell Trail Feasibility Study Advisory Committee final review meeting March 7

The Committee should have a first glance at the report at the next meeting.

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

- a. Perkiomen Stream Cleanup – April 1-2.
- b. Wissahickon Trails Maple Sugaring Festival – Sunday, March 6 @ Pennlyn Woods (Event is sold out)
- c. Lower Merion Conservancy – consequences of road salt applications on 3/3 at 6:40
- d. March 14th – 2-part series of live staking training

Mrs. Walker mentioned having students as volunteers or getting associate members. We could reach out to the school district on their regulations and focus on science clubs and such. Mrs. Walker will put together a brief summary to present to Commissioners Hull and Simelaro.

Possible tiers of the EAC committee

- Committee Members
- Associate Members
- Volunteers

A discussion ensued regarding volunteers. Mrs. Antoine feels that we should just do a call for volunteers to be discussed at next meeting. Possible involvement of Boy Scouts / Girl Scouts.

8. Adjournment

Mrs. Antoine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Walker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting April 6, 2022 @ 6 pm