

**EAC MEETING MINUTES**

April 6, 2022

6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The March 2, 2022 meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held in person.

Jon West	Chair
Erica Antoine	Vice Chair
Joanne Walker	Secretary
Brian Hutchinson	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Denise Hull	Commissioner
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Scott McCartney was absent

Present from the public Sherry Chen

2. Minutes March 2, 2022

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

3. Old Business

a. Initiatives

- i. Arbor Day Tree Sale Saturday, April 30th 9 am – 12 pm
 - Update

The event will be held in the Pavilion, and Mrs. Prebis will take care of signage for the event. Trees are expected to be delivered on Thursday or Friday, prior to the event. Mulch will be available as well as burlap bags for the mulch. Mr. Hutchinson will coordinate drop off for the trees. Currently, we have pre-sold 17 trees – 10 service berry and 7 red bud. Mrs. Walker will be the cashier for the event. Staff to arrive at 8:30 am and Mrs. Antoine will provide some food. There will be a demonstration on tree planting during the day.

Mrs. Antoine suggested a social media campaign on each individual tree. Mr. Alvarez will coordinate with Mrs. Antoine on the social media blasts.

ii. Environmental Education and Outreach

- Earth Day (4/22) at 1 pm

Mr. West will participate in the event with a table and displays. He will demonstrate a 5x5 lawn to meadow conversion event to include stripping the turf grass, covering it with a secured tarp and placing some signage stating it is a lawn to meadow conversion. In late May, the soil will be

roughed up and seeded with Northeast Native Wild Seed Mix. Mr. Alvarez suggested “solarizing” the plot with clear plastic so the turf burns. The committee will look into this.

**Tree flyers and Order forms to be printed for Earth Day

- Composting Workshop (9/21)

Information to come at future meetings.

- Rain Barrel Workshop (5/25) at 6 pm

The registration is set up on Community Pass. The event is limited to 15 people and will be held on a grassy area at Parkside Place or in the Community Center if raining.

- Other potential events
 - Unplugged Week (home energy audit)

Mr. West forwarded the information regarding an energy audit from Mr. McCartney to Mrs. Prebis. This is to teach kids about saving energy in a fun way. This will one of the events during Unplugged Week.

Mr. West discussed the Community Center and some stormwater improvements for the area.

- iii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force
 - Update

Ms. Chen said 3 main goals were established for the Task Force

- Educational
- Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation
- Electric Vehicles

Ms. Chen said Mr. McCartney is looking into brown fields for renewable energy. The Task Force is investigating having an energy audit completed and asked what is involved with recommending an energy audit. Ms. Weaver said the recommendation should include a cost estimate, background information to include why it should be done, any potential cost savings, etc. Ms. Chen will get a cost estimate for the audit that will give us a comprehensive report on the findings.

There was a discussion regarding the future Township building renovations. Ms. Weaver will contact the architect to see if energy savings are included in the plan. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding infrastructure grant funding from the government and other grant sources. Mrs. Hull suggested putting together a list for future grants. The Task Force will form a list of energy related grants to present to the Committee.

Ms. Chen said we can benchmark how much energy we are currently using and how does it compare to a building of comparable size. She asked if there is access to this information regarding our current energy bills. Ms. Weaver will get further information regarding an energy report from PECO.

Mr. West suggested the Task Force draft a memo recommending the energy audit.

- b. Plan Review Checklist and Questionnaire
 - Final draft

Mr. West said he would like to see a brief explanation of what the EAC reviews to be added to the memo. Mrs. Walker said many area EAC's require applicants to present their plan in person to the EAC.

c. Tree City ordinance review by MCPC

- Finalization before going to Planning Commission on 4/13

Mr. West circulated a draft memo and it will be included on the Planning Commission agenda for April. Ms. Weaver said the Planning Commission is questioning why we want to be a Tree City so she pulled information from the Arbor Day Foundation to share with the Planning Commission. The costs associated with the Tree City ordinance involve legal fees and advertising fees.

d. Review of pesticide/herbicide use in public spaces

- Township pesticide/herbicide list

Mrs. Prebis provided a list of some of the pesticide/herbicides that we use in the Township. The EAC will discuss the list further and possibly provide some best management practices for pesticide/herbicide use.

e. Regional Plastic Bag Ban

- Surveys

Mr. West reached out to some area municipalities about coordinating something for the plastic bag ban. Towamencin would like to participate in the meetings at the Clean Air Council. North Wales Borough is skeptical about the plastic bag ban but is interested in further discussions. Currently, the EAC will continue the conversation and will have a draft survey for the May meeting. Mrs. Hull said it should encompass the entire North Penn area for the ban. Mrs. Walker asked if the plastic bags affect the sewer system.

Suggestion: Presentation on the plastic bag ban by the Clean Air Council at a future meeting.

4. New Business

a. Volunteer Recruitment

Mr. West will solicit for volunteers at the upcoming events. He would like to start a Tree Tenders Group. We would need to have 2 – 3 certified tree tenders in the group and the rest can be volunteers. Training for a tree tender begins in May. This group can be an offshoot of the EAC that can replace a future Shade Tree Commission. The cost is \$40 pp to get certified as a Tree Tender.

Mrs. Walker will talk to the School District about recruiting kids as volunteers. Ms. Weaver said they have a Key Club and will find out if they have an environmental club.

b. Budget Tracking

The Committee was allocated a budget of \$7000 for the year. Mrs. Walker will provide updates on the budget.

5. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver said the Street Light Procurement group will have a meeting on preliminary design. The Perkiomen Watershed has \$5000 in grant money and Ms. Prebis will apply for meadowing for Rexdale Park and work at the WWTP. She added there will be a presentation on the Liberty Bell Trail on Monday at the Board Meeting.

Mrs. Hull said the Board met today to narrow down the goals for 2022. She added we removed some that no longer apply and deferred some for the future.

6. Liberty Bell Trail Feasibility Study

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

- Tree Tenders meeting on May 4th
- Wissahickon Trails clean up event on April 30th.

8. Adjournment

Mrs. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting May 4, 2022 @ 6 pm