

**EAC MEETING MINUTES**

July 6, 2022
6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The July 6, 2022 meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held in person.

Jon West	Chair
Erica Antoine	Vice Chair
Scott McCartney	Member
Brian Hutchinson	Member
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Joanne Walker, Denise Hull and Tom Alvarez were absent

Present from the public Sherry Chen, John Tierney and Judy Vose

Public Comments

Judy Vose, 619 Whittaker Place, has an oak sapling that her daughter received upon graduation from Elon University. She would like to donate it to the township for planting at either Whittaker Park or at the Conrad Avenue Basin on Morris Road. She has offered to do the planting herself. Ms. Weaver will discuss with Sarah Prebis the best location for the tree as it will grow to 50-60' tall at maturity. Ms. Vose also said wind blown seed from the invasive thistle at the PECO power line is invading her property and she is having difficulty getting rid of it. Mr. McCartney recommended calling PECO's Vegetative Management Department and request they spray the area. Ms. Weaver will reach out to our liaison at PECO to discuss the issue and come up with possible solutions.

2. Minutes June 1, 2022

This item was tabled until August.

3. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Environmental Education/Outreach

- Composting Workshop (9/21)

This workshop is being hosted by Back to Earth Compost Crew. They suggested capping the event at 20 participants. Additional information will be forthcoming for the newsletter and social media posts. The committee will decide in August about possibly subsidizing the event for residents.

- Upcoming Tabling Events

The committee will be present at Fall Fest and possibly North Wales Borough Community Day. There is a \$200 fee to participate in Community. The committee is looking to see if we can get the fee removed. Parade participation was also brought up as a new idea.

- ii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force

At the last meeting, Mrs. Hull suggested the sub committee refocus their priorities and come up with two or three to focus on.

Main priorities

- Ordinance updates (solar, green infrastructure, electrical charging, etc.)
- Net Zero Program with Merck which ties into the Ready for 100. More information coming from Tom Alvarez about the program

Minor priorities

- Educational Outreach, website resources, social media

The task force also mentioned a possible fall presentation regarding Ready for 100

- b. Plan Review Checklist and Questionnaire

- Approved by PRC

Ms. Weaver reported that this will be up on the website soon

- c. Tree City ordinance

- Being drafted by Solicitor

Once the draft is complete, the committee will review for comments. Mr. West said the solicitor should use the Doylestown ordinance as a basis for our ordinance.

A discussion ensued on “heritage trees” as a way of protecting designated trees as it pertains to the public right of way. Mr. Hutchinson said in his experience, a homeowner or contractor will come up a plan to work around certain trees and protect roots. Ms. Antoine asked who would designate a heritage tree? Currently, township residents do not need a permit to cut down trees on their property. Mr. Tierney commented that the nature of the UGT community would make it difficult to monitor permitting for the removal of the designated trees.

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

- Township pesticide/herbicide list

There is no update, but several questions should be addressed

- How does the Township use pesticides/herbicides in public spaces?
- What are the best practices for homeowners?
- Who is responsible for the right of ways?

- e. Regional Plastic Bag Ban
 - Surveys

The recommendation for the plastic ban survey will be sent to the Board of Commissioners for consideration. Mrs. Simelaro asked what area municipalities are doing this. Mr. West replied that UGT is leading the effort and added there is no interest from Towamencin and has received no response from Lansdale. The borough president from North Wales is interested and Ambler is now getting comments on their ordinance. Mrs. Simelaro asked if it would be beneficial to partner with area municipalities and Mrs. Antoine asked if the county is involved in the effort. Further discussion regarding a ban and fee program ensued.

- 4. New Business
 - a. Budget Report

The EAC budget is \$7000 for 2022. Approximately \$650 was netted from the tree sale and the leftover 10 trees were planted in Township open space. Any remaining budget must be spent by the end of the year. The budget process will begin the end of August and should be discussed at the August meeting.

- b. Annual priorities/initiatives and new FY budget request

Mr. West said the EAC should continue with everything we've started

- education and outreach
- task force
- tree sale – possible tree giveaway with mulch and deer tubing
- shade trees and tree tenders
- Natural resources and open space – *new focus area*

The committee discussed a possible fall tree giveaway at Fall Fest. They also discussed being involved in the planning process for Township projects to review for possible suggestions on sustainability, conservation, etc. Ms. Weaver will send the 5-year capital plan to the committee for review.

Further discussion began regarding stormwater management – what it is, what it entails, how it's maintained and regulated. The committee suggested possible home audits to go along with the Haines Run Project.

- 5. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver reported that Unplugged Week was very successful and suggested the EAC participate in the event next year. She went on to say that Keystone Lighting will present the design for the Street Light Procurement Program. The cost came in around \$91,000 with rebates but has an overall cost savings of \$275,000. Lastly, she reported that there will be a residents meeting about the Moyer Blvd. Project.

6. Upcoming Workshops and Events

Mr. West reported two upcoming events from Wissahickon Trails

July 24th – Walk with a naturalist

August 4th – Stormwater Audit

7. Adjournment

Mrs. Antoine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, and adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next Meeting August 3, 2022 @ 6 pm