

**EAC MEETING MINUTES**

September 7, 2022
6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The September 7, 2022 meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held in person.

Jon West	Chair
Joanne Walker	Secretary
Scott McCartney	Member
Brian Hutchinson	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager

Denise Hull, Erica Antoine and Deanna Logan were absent

Sherry Chen, member of the public was also present.

2. Minutes of August 3, 2022

Upon motion of Ms. Walker seconded by Mr. McCartney the meeting minutes of August 3, 2022 were approved unanimously.

3. 2023 Calendar

The EAC discussed the 2023 Calendar. The April meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2023 because of the Passover holiday. The EAC discussed decided to keep the meeting time at 6 pm.

Mr. West mentioned the letter that was received by the resident at 600 Brookwood Lane. Mr. Hutchinson had inspected the work that was done at the request of Mr. West. Mr. West will draft a letter to the resident who wrote the letter stating that the EAC advised the Township to speak about proper pruning techniques. Ms. Weaver will also provide this feedback to Sarah Prebis, as well.

4. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Environmental Education/Outreach

Composting Workshop (9/21)

- Mr. West noted that the Compost workshop is coming up on 9/21 at 6 pm start time at the pavilion

We currently have 6 people registered for the event. Ms. Weaver will place the flyer at the trail head and pavilion. The newsletter was just dropped off and it is in there too.

- Upcoming Tabling Events

North Wales Community Day on September 24th.

Mr. West reported that there is a \$200 registration fee. He requested they waive the fee for the Township. He received a response from the North Wales Borough Manager that the vendors are mostly all nonprofits, and she would seek sponsorship for the Township.

Ms. Walker made a motion that the EAC not attend this event which was seconded by Mr. McCartney. Mr. West posed the following: don't attend the event, wait to see if the fee is waived, or pay the \$200 and still go.

The EAC has coverage if they want to attend the event. Ms. Walker believes it unlikely that they will receive a sponsorship. She is also concerned that the table will then have a sponsor name that doesn't align with the EAC. Would the committee be okay if we get a sponsor but don't associate with them.

Ms. Walker clarified the motion to not attend the event if we must pay the \$200 fee, which was seconded by Mr. Hutchinson and approved unanimously.

Mr. Hutchinson made a second motion that the EAC attend if they received a sponsorship but don't need to associate with the sponsor which was seconded by Mr. West and approved unanimously.

Mr. West reported that Fall Fest will be held on October 15th from 11 am – 3 pm. Mr. Alvarez looked into a possible Native Tree giveaway. The supplies are very limited for trees to be given in the fall and have to be planted in the fall. He created a spreadsheet which included the following selections: River Birch, Red Bud, Sweet Pepper Bush, Hazel Nuts, Arrow Wood, and Red Twig Dogwood. The total cost without tax is \$680. The Committee would like to make this part of their educational outreach. Mr. Alvarez confirmed 6 of the redbuds, 12 of the small dogwoods, 6 each of the 4 native shrubs would be \$482. They will make this an educational purpose. Mr. Alvarez will work with Ms. Weaver for the placement of the order. Mr. Hutchinson or Mr. West will coordinate the delivery of the trees.

Any of the leftover trees can then be donated back to Township open space. All of the members were in favor.

Task Force Report

Mr. McCartney reported that they didn't meet since their last scheduled meeting. They have been working on initiatives for the budget. Mr. McCartney will share the MCAT presentation to the group that covered great topics. The task force will meet again soon.

Ms. Chen reported that the federal government passed the inflation bill and should they consider taking advantage of some of those things. Mr. West said the Township does already regularly apply for grants and are likely aware of the grant opportunities. However, if we find a grant that we could apply for, we should present it at a meeting, so the Township can look into it. The most important thing is the application deadline.

ii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force

Mr. McCartney discussed the PECO energy audits for residents. The audits cost \$50 each but the EAC can pay for the audit for up to 40 households (\$2000). Ms. Weaver reported that PECO uses a third-party vendor and had reached out to them. The vendor recommended doing a workshop and having a sign-up list at the event. The vendor is still looking into the invoicing but

Ms. Weaver recommending scheduling the event late October/early November to ensure the invoice is received prior to year end. She sent all of the information and vendor contact to Ms. Antoine and Mr. West.

- b. Tree City ordinance
 - Being drafted by Solicitor

Mr. West asked the Committee to review the draft then look at the specific questions to give feedback. We will begin discussions at the October meeting and will present a memo for the November meeting.

- c. Review of pesticide/herbicide use in public spaces
 - Township pesticide/herbicide list

Mr. McCartney is still working on drafting a memo to the BOC about what the Township does and what residents can do regarding pesticides/herbicides.

- d. Regional Plastic Bag Ban
 - Surveys

Ms. Weaver reported that there is not an update at this time.

- 5. New Business
 - a. 2023 Budget discussion

Ms. Walker thought the Arbor Day Tree Sale was changing to a tree giveaway with pre-approval for a tree. There would be an online survey similar to what Whitemarsh did. The Whitemarsh survey was presented to the Committee. Whitemarsh gets a set number of trees and they if they have extra that day they will give away. You don't have to fill out the form to get the left over strays. If they want to reserve a free tree, they have to fill out the form. You have to prove that you are a resident with a valid photo ID on the day of collection which is from 8:30 am - 10:30 am. After 11 am, any leftover trees are given out.

Mr. West said that the other option would be to offset the tree sale and not necessary make review. They can call it an Arbor Day Tree/Native Plant Giveaway. Mr. West will revise the description to include native trees/plants to be given away. Mr. Alvarez said \$2,500 is a reasonable amount for the giveaway.

Mr. West asked if we still want to subsidize the Rain Barrel and Composting Workshops. The Committee was in agreement to subsidize the event. Ms. Weaver will look into the Home Energy Efficiency Audit as it would be best to host an event as opposed to having a rolling sign up list. They can try to set up an event for November. Ms. Weaver just mentioned that the Township would need to pay the invoice prior to January 2023 for it to hit the 2022 budget.

Ms. Chen asked what the \$1,000 (requested in the 2023 budget) would cover. The EAC will figure that out once they have a better idea of the outreach/education. Wissahickon Trails recommended the app Model my Watershed that can be used for neighborhoods they want to target.

Mr. West reported that he, Ms. Antoine, Ms. Walker and Ms. Weaver met with Wissahickon Trails regarding the Watershed Friendly Program for those that live along Haines Run. They have experience targeting a specific watershed. There was an open house with education regarding Sandys run, a tributary. Wissahickon Trails could do an audit on how you can manage stormwater on your property.

The EAC could do personal outreach beforehand to get the residents engaged to let them know that Haines Run is in the planning process. The importance of meeting with residents and building the relationships with residents was stressed and would be done in conjunction with the work that the Township is doing. Ms. Simelaro agreed that face to face is best for getting information out there.

Mr. West said it was good to get some information and input from Wissahickon Trails and their experience with the program and outreach. The EAC didn't make any partnerships or further commitments.

Community Center Rain Garden

The EAC proposed a high visibility rain garden project at the Community Center for the 2023 budget in areas around the mural. Anything done would have signage about the work. Ms. Antoine came up with the dollar amount this based on square footage. Mr. West will edit that suggestion to have "Community Rain Garden" and study a good location. Ms. Walker suggested taking photos of trouble areas after we get a rain like tonight's. Mr. West confirmed that the edits to the budget memo would be to note that the Arbor Day Tree Sale is a giveaway with no cost to residents and to edit the community center rain garden to be just a community public space.

Ms. Walker made a motion; seconded by Mr. Hutchinson as edited above; All in favor. Unanimously. Mr. West will send over the edits for the budget as soon as possible.

6. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver reported the Township received a \$47,900 grant from DCNR for a new comprehensive recreation, park and open space plan to make a future vision for all of our parks and amenities.

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

Mr. West reported that 'Walk the Wissahickon' is on September 18th. There is also the Lawn conversion Workshop, through We Conserve on September 21st from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. Wissahickon Trails is having an open house on 9/25 at 1pm at the Grist Mill. Wissahickon Trails were very proud of it and the Grist Mill is also located within UGT.

8. Adjournment

Mr. McCartney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, and adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Next Meeting October 5, 2022 @ 6 pm