

**EAC MEETING MINUTES**

December 7, 2022

6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The December 7, 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
Joanne Walker	Secretary (by phone)
Erica Antoine	Member
Brian Hutchinson	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Denise Hull and Scott McCartney were absent.

2. Minutes of November 2, 2022

Upon motion of Mrs. Walker seconded by Mrs. Antoine the meeting minutes of November 2, 2022 were approved unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Environmental Education/Outreach

- PECO Energy Audit

Ms. Weaver said 15 people requested the code for the Energy Audit and 6 have registered so far. The deadline to register is December 15th.

- Boy Scout Projects

The Boy Scouts are looking for some projects to help with. Mr. West said they can help at the Arbor Day Event in April. Smaller trees and shrubs will be offered at the event. Mr. Alvarez will reach out to the local nurseries about pricing and availability. Mr. West will reach out to Walt Psculkowski from the Boy Scouts and Ms. Weaver will check with Mrs. Prebis about what she is doing for Earth Day. Ms. Weaver said the rain garden project was cut from the budget because there is already a planned Township rain garden project.

- Grant Application: Regional Trails Workshop Grant through We Conserve (DCNR)

Mrs. Walker said funding of up to \$5000 is available to be used for educational programs. The grant submittal is due on January 25, 2023. The grant supports high quality educational programming and safety training related to land trails, water trails and greenways. The grant is

open to local governments. Mrs. Walker offered her time to write the application. There is a 20% grant match. Mrs. Walker said we can educate on trail safety and children. Mr. West suggested reaching out to the resident with the Bike Club to work with him on the safety aspect as well as working with the Boy Scouts on the educational aspect of the grant. Ms. Weaver said this will need to be approved by the BOC in January. She will send the forms to Mrs. Walker who will submit for the agenda by January 4th.

ii. Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force

Mr. Alvarez said Ms. Chen is looking to get Bill Sabie to speak to the group in February. Mr. Sabie is a liaison with the Sierra Club and is a proponent of Ready for 100. Mr. West said the meeting should include township staff, Commissioners, and Planning Commission members. This can be part of a regular EAC meeting.

iii. Natural Resources and Open Space

b. Tree City ordinance

- Review of comments

A discussion ensued regarding the section about a 3-year maintenance bond. Typical maintenance bonds are for 18 months. No burdens are created in the Township with maintenance bonds. The EAC agrees that the performance bond stipulation to remain in the Ordinance. All the trees and plants in the list are native plantings. Mr. McCartney requested that Spring and Fall should be defined, but the committee recommended that it not be defined as it could change in the future. Ms. Weaver is concerned about protection of rare trees as she said we don't have a mechanism in place nor staff to monitor or enforce it. Ms. Weaver will discuss with Mrs. Zadell and Ms. Gallagher. A discussion continued about tree protection regarding heritage trees. Mrs. Antoine suggested 3 options for trees; plant the equivalent diameter on your property, purchase a tree of equivalent diameter for the Township to plant where needed, or pay an established fee based to be used for stormwater projects. She will send some verbiage to consider in the section. In Section D, appendix A, Mr. West suggested upping the 35 caliper inches to 70 caliper inches per acre. All further comments are to be sent to Ms. Weaver by Friday so she can present it to the PRC next Thursday. Page 15 – it is suggested that “preferred” be changed to “required” use of native trees. Mr. West said this Ordinance will provide updated guidance to the SALDO.

c. Pesticide/herbicide use in public spaces Memo

- Review of comments

Comments were sent to Mr. McCartney. He will finalize everything in the new year.

d. Regional Plastic Bag Ban

- Survey

Mrs. Simelaro mentioned that an area municipality will pass a plastic bag ban in the new year. Mr. West said we are getting input from residents and the EAC will solicit to area businesses to participate in the survey. So far, 132 responses from residents were received on the survey. Mr. Alvarez said New Jersey estimates they saved 55 million bags per month since issuing a plastic bag ban.

4. New Business

a. 2 Vacancies

Mrs. Antoine and Mr. Hutchinson will not be returning as EAC members in the new year. Mr. West thanked them both for their service and hopes they will continue to help in some capacity. Ms. Weaver said vacancies are advertised on the website, newsletter and social media. Once resumes are received, interviews will take place and a new member will be appointed to the committee by the Board of Commissioners.

b. Plan Reviews

i. Pennington/Moyer Blvd.

Review letters are due by 12/13 to be sent to the developer to incorporate in the revisions. Mr. West used the EAC Plan Review Guidelines to make his comments. If anyone has further comments, please send to Mr. West so he can add to the form to submit to Ms. Weaver.

ii. 645 Sumneytown Pike Minor Subdivision application

Mr. West suggested to giving the applicant a copy of the EAC recommendations for developers. Ms. Weaver will confirm with our Solicitor if the Ordinance would apply to minor subdivisions. Comments are due by 12/23.

Ms. Weaver said the plans for Wawa (Valley Forge Road) will be sent soon for review.

5. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver reported that we had our e-recycle shred event this past Saturday. There was limited participation because of the rain. PAR recycle works approached us about purchasing a recycling toter for small electronics that residents can use throughout the year. Ms. Weaver will review it and provide an update at a later date.

6. Upcoming Workshops and Events

Winter Salt Watch program: Kits can be ordered through the Isaak Walton League or at Ambler Yards through the Wissahickon Trails. Mr. West said the Township should look into the amount of rock salt being used on Township streets and see what other municipalities are doing.

Dec 17 – Audubon Christmas Bird Count at Four Mills Nature Reserve through the Wissahickon Trails

EAC networking conference on Saturday, February 25, 2023 – Mrs. Walker will attend

7. Adjournment

Mrs. Antoine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Hutchinson, and adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Next Meeting January 4, 2023 @ 6 pm

Minutes were approved on January 4, 2023