



## EAC MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2021

6:00 pm

### 1. Call to Order

The November 3, 2021 meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held virtually.

Jon West	Member
Scott McCartney	Member
Brian Hutchinson	Member
Joanne Walker	Member
Erica Antoine	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Denise Hull	Commissioner

### 2. Minutes October 6, 2021

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Walker, and seconded by Mr. McCartney, the minutes of October 6, 2021 were unanimously approved.

### 3. Old Business

#### a. Initiatives

#### i. Environmental Education and Outreach

##### 1. Potential programming with Parks & Rec for Spring Newsletter

Mrs. Walker submitted an article for the Spring Newsletter highlighting the upcoming EAC programming. Parks and Recreation has 2 new programs in conjunction with the Perkiomen Watershed that will be in the newsletter. Both are part of the preschool programming – Winter Wonders and Spring Wonders.

##### 2. Social Media Blasts

Mrs. Walker will resume submissions for social media blasts soon. Mr. West suggested a blast about the responsibilities residents have that live near a creek or open space. Ms. Weaver suggested adding this to the newsletter and the committee agreed to provide something for the Summer Newsletter. A discussion ensued regarding yard waste and how to properly dispose of it. Mrs. Hull said the Township is looking at providing yard waste pick up for the residents as a service. Mr. West will look into getting additional brochures about “Caring for your Streamside Property”. Mrs. Hull suggested knocking on resident doors that live near the streams and hand out the brochures.

Mrs. Walker suggested a social media blast about residents keeping storm drains clean of leaves and snow. She mentioned the PA Department of Environmental Protection has a grants program that is focused on water quality, climate change and environmental justice education which you can get up to \$3000 with the application due by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Harry Nowak, Valley Forge Rd. joined the meeting and said he has maintained approximately 35 ft. of the Towamencin Creek and is actively working on streambank remediation on his property and should begin this project in the spring. He is looking at the replacement of some trees, soil, and barriers due to the sewer diversion project. He would like the Township to have a stormwater management plan for Valley Forge Road and he invited anyone to visit this area for further discussion. Mr. Nowak questioned the maintenance of stormwater facilities in the Township to control some of the flooding issues. Ms. Weaver said any Township owned basins are maintained by the UGT and some privately owned basins are under NPDES permits and are required to follow certain regulations. The Township doesn't have any enforcement mechanisms, but we do meet with residents and HOAs with our Township Engineer and he will make recommendations to improve the function of the basin. Mr. Nowak was pleased to hear the Township is so proactive.

- ii. Tree City/Birdtown
  - 1. Ordinance Discussion

The ordinance is still under review by Marley Bice of the MCPC. Ms. Weaver will follow up with Ms. Bice.

- iii. Watershed Friendly Property Program

Mr. West said there are people interested in the program that he met during Fall Fest. He plans to resubmit his application for certification. Mrs. Simelaro shared that she heard nothing but good things about the displays at Fall Fest.

- iv. Renewable/Sustainable Energy

Mr. McCartney said his group is reviewing the data on the greenhouse gases from Montgomery County and will put together a steering committee on how to use the data.

- b. Native Tree Sale and Plant Cutting Exchange

Mr. West suggested using the proceeds of the sale to help residents do some targeted plantings on riparian buffers or other ecological areas on private properties.

Mr. Alvarez said the order is reserved and there is no payment until 2022. He suggested giving a native plant brochure at the tree sale.

Mr. West suggested including deer protection and mulch with every tree that is sold (4 stakes, deer fencing and a bag of mulch). The cost can be rolled into the price of the tree. Mr. Alvarez will research pricing. If it is too costly, he suggested provided instructions on care and protection of trees. A discussion ensued regarding Arbor Day 2022, (i.e. location of sale, logistics, coordinating with Parks & Recreation, etc.) Mr. West also suggested a raffle for trees on Earth Day.

#### 4. New Business

##### i. Future Workshops

- Rain Barrel
- Composting
- Raised Garden Bed Construction
- Watershed Friendly Property Program (Pilot)

Ms. Weaver said the Perkiomen Watershed sends information out in January about their upcoming programs. She will coordinate dates for the rain barrel workshop and will inquire about a composting workshop. Mr. West suggested contacting Brian Verdino of the Conservation District to talk with us about future workshops.

##### ii. Plan Review Checklist/Questionnaire

Mr. West will distribute a checklist for the committee to review for comments.

#### 5. Liberty Bell Trail Study Advisory Committee

Ms. Weaver said positive feedback was received on the virtual open house. She will get some further information from Sarah Prebis on the Open House.

#### 6. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver said we signed up to be a collection site for campaign signs. The drop off box is in the pool parking lot. At the E-recycle Shred event, we received 13,257 lbs. of e-recycling waste and 9,614 lbs. of paper. She also said we participated in the DVRPC street procurement free feasibility plan. This plan is to help municipalities upgrade their lighting to LED. Keystone Lighting won the bid for the RFP and the president of the company will be doing a presentation at the next Board of Commissioners Work Session Meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> to go over the results of the study.

#### 7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

##### a. Regional Plastic Bag Ban Initiative discussion

Mr. West said the city of Philadelphia bans the use of plastic bags and will begin enforcement in 6 – 8 months. Some of the area EACs would like to do the same in their communities. He said there will be a Regional Plastic Bag Ban Initiative discussion hosted by Springfield Township EAC tomorrow evening at 7 pm. A discussion ensued about materials used and cost of bag alternatives.

##### b. Lawn to Meadow Demonstration Planting Event (MC Conservation District) on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Skippack Church in Collegeville.

##### c. Statewide EAC Virtual Network Conference on Saturday, February 26, 2022 – Mrs. Walker will speak about Grant Writing at the conference.

## 8. Adjournment

Mrs. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Antoine, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next Meeting December 1, 2021 @ 6 pm

## Action Items

- Deanna will research “bugs” for giveaways at future EAC events.
- Tom to work with Megan on payment, registration, etc. for Tree Sale
- Tom will work on mockups for tree care, planting, etc. and will research cost for deer protection/planting.
- Megan will talk to Sarah about logistics, registration, payment, location, etc. for tree sale.
- Sarah to be invited to the December 1<sup>st</sup> EAC meeting
- Joanne will research native plant cuttings
- Committee will finalize the Plan Review Checklist in December