



EAC MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2021
6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The December 1, 2021 meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held virtually.

Jon West	Chair
Scott McCartney	Member
Joanne Walker	Member
Erica Antoine	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Denis Hull	Commissioner
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Brian Hutchinson was absent.

2. Minutes November 3, 2021

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Walker, and seconded by Mr. McCartney, the minutes of November 3, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Review of Action Items from November 3, 2021

- 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 1st EAC meeting
- Joanne will research native plant cuttings
- Committee will finalize the Plan Review Checklist in December

Mr. West mentioned the BMP program that we heard about from Ross Snook to perhaps help our residents. This could be a project for an intern. Ms. Weaver did reach out to Mr. Nowak, but he hasn't returned her calls. Mrs. Walker said Mr. Snook will be doing a presentation on the BMP program at the February EAC virtual conference.

- 3. Old Business
 - a. Initiatives
 - i. Environmental Education and Outreach
 - 1. Potential programming with Parks & Rec
 - 2. Social Media Blasts

Mrs. Walker recently put out a social media blast on trails and will continue the blasts in January.

The Township received grant money for the study portion of the Haines Run Streambank Restoration Project. Mr. West said this may be a good time to do outreach and education with those residents who live on West Prospect Ave. and those that are along the stream.

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

This is still in progress.

- iii. Watershed Friendly Property Program
 - iv. Renewable/Sustainable Energy

Mr. West said he believes there will be a push for renewable/sustainable energy funding with the passage of the infrastructure bill. He said we will continue discussions and evaluate to see what applies to our Township. A Renewable/Sustainable Energy subcommittee was formed with Mr. McCartney, Mrs. Antoine, and Mr. Alvarez to tune into the various initiatives in our area that can impact our Township.

Montco/RCAP update – Mr. McCartney reported the committee is working on their vision station and strategies. We can provide comments and some examples of the strategies that we are aware of in the Township or in Montgomery County and Mr. McCartney can send to RCAP. The Montco 2050 Climate Action Plan is set for public comment in the Spring/Summer 2022. UGT is higher in Greenhouse Gas Emissions because of land use in the area.

- b. Native Tree Sale and Plant Cutting Exchange (Arbor Day Event)

Mr. Alvarez said 2 – 3 cubic yard bag of mulch is \$5.00 per bag, but he is having difficulty finding something for deer protection. He will continue to research tree tubes. Mr. West suggested calling Octoraro and Rhoads Garden about mulch prices. Ms. Weaver suggested using the Township woodchips from the recycled Christmas Trees to give away with the trees. Residents can bring their own containers and it would save the budget.

Registration / Payments can be done through Community Pass. Trees will be prepaid. This can be set up in mid / late March. Ms. Prebis said the Tree Sale can be held under the pavilion, but any space can be used. Mr. Alvarez asked if we could ask if residents if they want the tree tube as part of the registration

Mr. West asked for an area where a tree can actually be planted to show residents how to properly plant a tree. Ms. Weaver will get feedback from Mrs. Prebis.

4. New Business

i. Future Workshops

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

Ms. Weaver said the Perkiomen Watershed has some additional workshops to offer such as downspout planters, composting workshop and a native planting workshop. Ms. Weaver will see if they are available on 4/30

ii. Plan Review Checklist/Questionnaire

- Finalize checklist

Ms. Walker said she likes that it is divided into topics, but we should compare it to what is already covered, and we don't want to overburden developers. A discussion ensued as to having one document for the developers and a checklist for the committee. Ms. Weaver said anything stormwater should come from the engineer. She suggested the checklist be included with the application or use it internally to guide our discussions. Mrs. Antoine said a one-page handout to the developers should encompass those items that are important to the township for developers to consider. The consensus is to provide a one-page reference of what the EAC will be looking for during the review process and a checklist for the committee for things the developer took into consideration.

Committee to email Mr. West with any further comments. He will develop the 2 forms discussed and will send them out to the committee.

iii. Barriers to Green Infrastructure

- Recommendations

Ms. Weaver distributed some documents to the committee about the review of our ordinances. Susan from PEC offered to come and present to the committee. Mr. West suggested she come in January or February.

5. Liberty Bell Trail Study Advisory Committee

6. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver said there was a presentation on the Streetlight Procurement Program at the last BOC meeting and this month it will be for the Board's consideration whether to approve the program.

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

a. Regional Plastic Bag Ban Initiative discussion

Mr. West attended a recent meeting regarding the plastic bag ban. Penn Environment is pushing EAC's to take a leadership role on the plastic bag ban since Philadelphia has banned the bags. Information was distributed in the packet. Mr. West suggested putting out a survey of businesses and residents to get their thoughts on a possible plastic bag ban. There will be another meeting about this in January.

Upcoming Regional EAC meeting in February

8. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting January 5, 2022 @ 6 pm