



EAC MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2022
6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The January 5, 2022 meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm with the following individuals in attendance. This meeting was held virtually.

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

Guests from PEC Paul Racette and Susan Myerov were also present.

Mr. West congratulated Mrs. Hull on her swearing in. Ms. Weaver announced that Mrs. Hull is now the President and Katherine Carter is Vice President of the Board. She said some of the liaison positions changed as well.

2. Minutes December 1, 2021

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Walker, and seconded by Mr. McCartney, the minutes of December 1, 2021 were unanimously approved.

3. New Business

a. Barriers to Green Infrastructure

i. Overview and Recommendations presented by Susan from PEC

Ms. Weaver distributed the Green Infrastructure review by PEC. Ms. Myerov, Watershed Program Director and Paul Racette Program Manager were present to discuss the results. Mrs. Myerov said the goal of the project was to work with communities to remove barriers to green infrastructure implementation leading to clean water outcomes. More implementation of green management is beneficial to our streams and watersheds. Many suburban codes are not always conducive to green infrastructure so it was reviewed to identify areas where greening can be implemented. PEC is currently working with five municipalities in the suburban Philadelphia area. PEC provides a report card, which was developed by the University of Wisconsin Extension to the audit questions presented regarding green infrastructure. The audit is divided into 12 topic areas. Comments and notes are offered by PEC and sent to the Township for their

comments regarding PEC's recommendations. Also included by PEC was a larger report how and why the recommendations should be implemented.

Mr. Racette said there are 4 general categories to consider for your code.

- Make sure your code defines GSI and the different features (rain garden, bio swale)
- Incentive use of GSI
- Protecting natural trees and preservation of natural features
- Pollution prevention

A discussion ensued regarding downspout disconnection. Mrs. Antoine asked what incentives have worked in other communities. Mrs. Myerov said perhaps the developer gets decreased permit fees or exchanges it for higher density, or a reduction in stormwater fee for green infrastructure. Mr. West asked the difference between conditional use and by right. Conditional Use is approved by the governing body, and it has to go through additional reviews and is based on certain conditions before approval. By right is a use permissible in the zoning district in which the property is located.

Mr. Racette said PEC has some funding available to help with the adoption process for green infrastructure. Mr. West asked what role the EAC can play in this. Ms. Weaver spoke with Ms. Bice from MCPC regarding items that crossover in our SALDO and PEC recommendations. Ms. Weaver will distribute a memo from Ms. Bice tomorrow regarding this topic. She added we entered into a contract with MCPC to consolidate some of these recommendations with the comp plan recommendations.

Mr. West said we can play a role in refining recommendations and Mrs. Walker said we should try and tie some of the recommendations into our educational outreach. Mr. West identified many recommendations that he felt should be considered. Mrs. Hull asked for 3 things that are most important to him to which Mrs. Simelaro suggested the Committee rank the recommendations and pick their top 3 by 1/17. Mr. West will compile the information and provide it to the Board.

b. Regional Plastic Bag Ban
i. Surveys

Mr. West said there are surveys that are being circulated to residents and businesses for feedback. A discussion ensued about the possibility of sending 2 separate surveys for businesses and residents. Another regional meeting will be held this month.

c. Winter Salt Watch

Mr. West said this was organized by the Izaak Walton League and in their 6th season of sampling and analysis. This group offers free kits and Wissahickon Trails also has free kits available at their headquarters.

4. Old Business
a. Plan Review Checklist and Questionnaire

There are 2 documents; a consideration document for developers that tells them what the EAC will be looking for, and a checklist for the committee to use as a guide that is correlated with the developer document.

Mrs. Antoine recommended the documents be used both printed and on the computer. Mr. West said one compiled document will be given to Township staff to create a memo for the developer.

The Committee will also provide comments on the plan review documents by 1/17 to Mr. West, sent to Mrs. Walker for clean-up then to the township staff for review prior to going before the Board. Ms. Weaver recommended it be reviewed by the Plan Review Committee.

Mrs. Hull told the Committee to provide information regarding what other surrounding townships utilize recommendations to the developers so the Board can take this under consideration.

b. Initiatives

i. Environmental Education and Outreach

1. Potential Future Workshops

Brian Vedino of Montgomery County Conservation District will be here next month to speak with us.

a. Prepare for brainstorming session with Conservation District next month

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

2. Social Media Blasts

Mrs. Walker said she is thinking about sending winter blasts covering the Salt Watch, as well as alternatives to using salt on your driveway.

ii. Tree City/Birdtown

Ms. Weaver has a memo from Ms. Bice that she will email tomorrow

iii. Watershed Friendly Property Program

iv. Renewable/Sustainable Energy

Name for subcommittee consisting of Erica Antoine, Scott McCartney and Tom Alvarez

Renewable Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force (replace with this on next agenda)

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

Mr. Alvarez looked into tree tubes but felt we should provide literature for the buyer on how to protect the trees. We will provide mulch in the form of Christmas tree chips. Ms. Weaver will receive all invoicing. We will discuss publicizing the sale at the next meeting, paying for orders and order pick up.

5. Assistant Township Manager's Report

We received another grant from DCED for \$90,000 for the Haines Run Project.

6. Upcoming Workshops and Events

a. EAC Network Conference – February 26, 10AM – 4:30PM

Mrs. Walker said there is another grant source called We Conserve PA that offers grants up to \$5000 to support local trails and greenway outreach and education efforts. She will send link to Ms. Weaver.

7. 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 February 2, 2022 @ 6 pm

Meeting Minutes approved - February 2, 2022