



EAC MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 2021- 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm with the following individuals in attendance;

Jon West	Chairman
Erica Antoine	Member
Scott McCartney	Member
Brian Hutchinson	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Sandra Zadell	Township Manager
Denise Hull	Commissioner
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Joanne Walker was absent

Mr. West announced the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy has started their native plant sale.

2. Minutes April 7, 2021

Hearing no questions or comments, upon motion by Mrs. Antoine, and seconded by Mr. McCartney, the minutes of April 7, 2021 were unanimously approved

3. Neighboring EAC Meet and Greet

Mark Shafer, co-chair of Lower Gwynedd EAC joined the meeting. He also chairs the Wissahickon Trails Water Resources Committee and is a professor at Drexel University Bio Med Department. The Lower Gwynedd EAC was formed 3 years ago. They do as much outward facing communication as possible to get the EAC name in front of the community such as a spotted lanternfly fly swatter give away, rain barrel give away with training, and battery recycling dropoff. The Lower Gwynedd EAC has a budget of \$20,000 to fund those outward facing communication projects. They recently received a \$100,000 grant for stream remediation around the Township. Lower Gwynedd has a native plant ordinance, so new construction is required to utilize native plants. They coordinate with Parks & Rec department on projects. Mr. Shafer wants all no name creeks to have names and note where they flow so people know what's around them. He said he is excited to share resources between the councils and added the Liberty Bell Trail would be a great way to tie our communities together. Mr. West said he shared information on the Watershed Friendly Property Program which Mr. Shafer will introduce to his EAC.

4. EAC Network Conference Debrief

Mr. West said the Conference was held on April 10th and overall there was a large showing from southeastern PA. Mr. McCartney found the breakout session on shade trees very informative and got good information from the session on sustainability that we can incorporate into our initiatives not only planting in our Township, but in surrounding communities as well. Mr. West found local climate action plans are a hot topic as many municipalities are addressing the issues for the future. Mrs. Antoine added the climate action plans have a focus on cross collaboration by sharing resources and ideas statewide.

Mr. McCartney gave an overview of the session on greenhouse gases and alternatives such as electric cars with charging stations and other clean power sources.

5. Draft Comprehensive Plan

Mr. West state the Comprehensive Plan has been open to the public for comments and input. He encouraged EAC members to comment on the plan and asked if it would be appropriate for the EAC to comment on the certain sections of the comprehensive plan with a memo. Mrs. Zadell said a memo from the EAC should go to the BOC regarding the plan.

- EAC members will submit individual comments to Mr. West by Wednesday, May 26th and he will compile the comments for staff to compose the memo by June 1st.

Mr. West asked how the Township makes sure any plans don't conflict with our SALDO. Mrs. Zadell replied that our Township Engineers make sure our WQIP, MS4, TMDL plans don't conflict with our SALDO.

6. Old Business

a. Initiatives

- i. Environmental Education and Outreach
- ii. Tree City/Birdtown

Mr. West said trees were planted at Center Street on Saturday, May 1st for Arbor Day. The butterfly garden was also cleaned up and native pollinator seedlings were added.

- Mrs. Zadell will work on the Ordinance for Tree City USA

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

Former member, Heidi Lucas shared information on solar panels which she and several of her neighbors installed. She shared a link called Solarize Southeast PA (<https://solarizesoutheastpa.com/>) that can help with clean energy solutions. Mr. West commented that this may be something we want to get the word out on. He asked if anyone was interested in sitting through one of the meetings to see what the group is all about and what other opportunities may be available. Mrs. Antoine volunteered.

Mr. West asked Mrs. Zadell about the Haines Run project. Mrs. Zadell shared the conceptual plan of the Haines Run Project which includes streambank restoration and regrading. This plan has not yet been fully engineered and will be completed in phases. Mrs. Zadell said the Township is in the process of applying for 2 grants.

7. New Business

a. Liberty Bell Trail Feasibility Study

Mrs. Zadell reported the Liberty Bell Trail is a grant funded feasibility study in partnership with 7 other municipalities which UGT is the lead. UGT has been posting about the wikimap to receive comments and input. Mrs. Zadell said all comments made are contained on the wikimap. There will be public outreach soon with a series of community meetings with residents. She added, we are looking for a volunteer to sit on the feasibility study committee. Mr. West offered to partake in the committee and will report back to the council after the meetings

The Power Line Trail Study has been doing public outreach already.

8. Township Manager's Report

a. Review of Township's Green Stormwater Initiative

Mrs. Zadell reported our code was reviewed by PEC in the following areas; Design Standards, Education & Outreach, Construction Management, Landscaping, Parking, Permeable Materials, Pollution Reduction, Post-Construction Standards, Public Works Standards, Stormwater Management Standard, Zoning and Greenfield Development.

Once it's reviewed, we are given a report card grade which we can then make comments on the grade. After our comments are submitted, we receive a scorecard that will then be reviewed by the EAC for comments and possible changes to allow for a greener code. Sue Myerov is the consultant working on this project. She is a member of Abington Township EAC.

- Mrs. Zadell will have Megan Weaver join a meeting to go over the WQIP project.

The WQIP alternate plan that was sent to DEP/EPA says that sediment reduction is more impactful than phosphorus reduction. Several years ago, UGT spent \$6M upgrading the WWTP with magnetite to reduce phosphorus.

- Mrs. Zadell will set up a tour of the WWTP with Rebecca

Future events – Fall Fest

Suggested possible events - Education with children, native plant seedlings, EAC stickers / stormwater stickers

- EAC members to come up with public education programming for children and any logo items you want to include. This will be added to the June agenda.

9. Adjournment

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

Next Meeting - June 2, 2021 @ 6 pm will be in person in Boardroom A