



EAC MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2021- 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The August 4, 2021 meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm with the following individuals in attendance.

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

This meeting was held at the Parkside Place Pavilion

Residents were present at the meeting to discuss the sidewalk at Whitly Walk (formerly the Jeppy property)

Mike and Claire Tobias of Canterbury Court, John Immanuel of 756 Newport Lane, Dan & Lois McMullen of 1163 Canterbury Drive

John Tierney said he was curious about Wheatley Court as the President of the Board of Directors of Wissahickon Trails and a member of the Planning Commission

2. Minutes July 7, 2021

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

3. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Environmental Education and Outreach

1. Potential programming with Parks & Rec for Summer/Fall

Heidi Lucas and Leigha Getty have a meeting on August 27th regarding fall activities. The EAC may sponsor some of the events planned

2. Carnival and Fall Fest tabling and outreach

Tables have been reserved at both events. The giveaway straws and stress balls are in. Mr. West reserved the Penn State Extension Program Board and has ideas for interactive games with the kids. The EAC will attend the Carnival on Saturday and Sunday from 1 – 5 pm.

Mr. McCartney and Mrs. Antoine will man the table on Saturday and Mrs. Walker and Mr. West be present on Sunday.

The EAC will attend all day of Fall Fest

3. Social Media Blasts

Mrs. Walker will create 4-6 additional social media blasts and will send to Ms. Weaver to post.

ii. Tree City/Birdtown

1. Ordinance Discussion

The Ordinance is still in the hands of the consultants and may take several months until it is finalized.

iii. Watershed Friendly Property Program

Mrs. Antoine will bring her Watershed Friendly sign to the Carnival and Fall Fest as well as a sign-up sheet for those interested in becoming a watershed friendly property.

Mrs. Antoine described the program for interested residents and some of the criteria required. If you score 80% and above, then your property may be certified as Watershed Friendly

Mr. West reminded everyone to identify certain areas of the Township that we can work on to make it watershed friendly. He mentioned a possible partnership with Wissahickon Trails.

iv. Renewable/Sustainable Energy

Mr. McCartney said he is on the email list at Local Climate Action Program (LCAP) to receive information about upcoming meetings.

4. New Business

i. 2022 Budget Request

The budget subcommittee met and brainstormed about the 2022 calendar of initiatives for the EAC. They are looking at asking for a budget of \$6500 to cover programming, literature, events, printing, giveaways, etc. Mrs. Walker will revise it to include more detail. Full budget requests are due by the September meeting. Further input is due by 8/20 to Mrs. Walker who will compile the additional information for the September 1st meeting. She will send it to Mrs. Zadell and Ms. Weaver for review also.

ii. Shade Tree Giveaway/Sale and Native Plant Cutting Exchange

For Arbor Day 2022 the EAC is looking to budget \$1500 wholesale for native trees (100 trees) as a giveaway/sale. Ms. Weaver will check with Mrs. Prebis to see where trees may be needed in the Township. Mr. Alvarez and Mr. Hutchinson will head the subcommittee for the Shade Tree Giveaway. Mr. Hutchinson will send information on wholesalers for the purchase of the trees. The committee is looking to purchase 100 trees of 3-4 native

Mr. McMullen of Canterbury Ct. asked if we have a program for volunteers to beautify certain areas in the township. The EAC liked the idea and Mr. McCartney said we can identify certain areas. Mrs. Hull said there are places that P/Rec can't get to and we can identify those areas as well.

iii. Future Workshops

iv. Wheatly Walk, 779-783 Sumneytown Pike Land Development review

Mr. McCartney compiled the EAC comments for Wheatley Walk. He said the EAC review is to offer developers suggestions and recommendations for things that affect the environment.

1. Use Native Species in plantings
2. Provide details on tree removal and trees that will remain
3. Suggest additional landscaping in common spaces
4. Fence – get additional info on how the fence will be maintained

Mr. Immanuel asked about the fence. Mrs. Walker said the fence is located at the back of the development bordering the Canterbury development. Mr. Tierney said the developer intends to review the privacy fence. The Planning Commission recommended that there be a pathway connecting Canterbury court to the sidewalk for additional connectivity. Mrs. Walker expressed concern that the fence may not be maintained. It was noted that this development will be regulated by an HOA and fence maintenance will be included in the HOA documents. The neighbors are in favor of the fence. Mrs. Walker said the fenced area may limit the habitat inside the fence. Mr. Immanuel said he has a metal fence around his property and has no problem with habitat and vegetation.

The Montgomery County Planning Commission commented that the fence will likely impact the existing trees and vegetation adversely. The neighbors prefer the fence over restoration of the trees/vegetation. Ms. Weaver reminded everyone that this is only a preliminary plan. Mrs. Hull said the new regime is aware of all the neighbors' comments and how hard WB Homes has worked with communicating everything with the neighbors. She said there is a survey for those within a 500' radius of the proposed plan. She stated that this survey is meant for those that are directly impacted by this development and will be transparent about what is occurring. Mrs. Hull said the EAC is weighing in those items that affect the environment.

The neighbors present made it known that they are opposed to the sidewalk at Wheatley Walk. They also commented that the survey should have been sent to everyone in the neighborhood. Mrs. Hull said we are following the requirements of zoning and we are going to follow the wishes of those who live in the 500' radius of the subdivision.

Mr. McMullen brought up a drainage issue at Canterbury (cul de sac and basins). RVE is addressing the issue and is working with the developer.

5. Berm – make sure there is no water laying on Sumneytown Pike after storm
6. Consider incorporating some green stormwater infrastructure to slow down rate of stormwater flow and filter pollutants that drain to waterways
7. Consider using sustainability practices during construction and post construction
8. Consider light pollution mitigation procedures
9. Consider increasing landscaped parking islands
10. Replacement of trees

Mr. West asked for clarification on stormwater best management practices. This plan calls for 2 underground basins plus a berm with connectivity to existing stormwater. A discussion ensued regarding stormwater management (rate, quality and volume). The developer is proposing basins that are designed to hold normal storms and a backup to hold extraordinary storms. Water is to be released 24 – 72 hours following a storm. RVE requested some additional details on the infrastructure of the basins.

Mrs. Walker commented about the small amount of open space. Ms. Weaver said if a developer has less open space than our SALDO requires, then they are required to pay \$1080 per dwelling unit to our open space fund.

Mr. McCartney to send the EAC comments to the Township by Monday, August 9, 2021 regarding Wheatley Walk.

5. Liberty Bell Trail Study Advisory Committee

No updates

6. Township Manager's Report

No report

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events

Merck has an E waste recycling event(electronics) in late September at Merck UG for Merck employees.

8. Adjournment

Mrs. Antoine made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Walker. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Next Meeting September 1, 2021 @ 6 pm at the Pavilion