

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Sam Bryant
January 13th, 2015

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Ray Hendrick (Chairman), Marty Brooks, Sean Sablosky, Colin Cameron;
Supervisors: Ken Snyder (Liaison), Rick Colello; Township Staff: Sam Bryant (Special Projects Coordinator)

Minutes Approval

Mr. Brooks motioned to approve the December Minutes; Mr. Sablosky seconded; unanimous approval.

Plan Review

There were no plans to review at this meeting.

EAC Hour Update

Mr. Bryant watched the videos provided by TAB member Keith Peters. They are all water related, and while older (early 1990s) are videos appropriate for the channel. Mr. Bryant will schedule a time with Mr. Hendrick to watch these videos. Mr. Peters did not provide an update at the TAB meeting the previous night as to when his video on the Fall Bird Walk will be completed.

Mr. Bryant reached out to DEP and reviewed the EPA website for additional videos.

Mr. Hendrick noted that when spring comes, we may need the bats video shown in the past. While discussing recent bat depopulation in the area, Mr. Hendrick wanted to follow up that the EAC approval of the plan at Old Dublin Pike last year had the appropriate bat boxes, etc. Mr. Snyder said that the Township Engineer checks these matters.

Group Photo

Mr. Hendrick announced there would be a group photo of the EAC at the next meeting where all the members are present. Mr. Bryant will take this photo.

EAC Summit 2015

Mr. Bryant reminded everyone that the EAC Summit will be coming up again this summer, and that members will need to start thinking of topics/speakers for full discussion in February.

Mr. Hendrick noted that this is an important event that has had good participation in the past. Mr. Hendrick will have some scheduling conflicts in May, so it may need to be held late May or early June this year.

Arbor Day 2015

Mr. Bryant noted that the main plan for Arbor Day is to use the funding from the TreeVitalize grant the Township and EAC applied for to do a planting at either Bridge Point Park or the Environmental Education Center. The status of this grant will not be known until January 23rd at the latest.

Mr. Bryant has received several positive messages from the granting organization about the Township's chances to receive a grant. For these reasons, the EAC decided not to discuss a backup plan for Arbor Day at this time.

Mr. Brooks stated that Triangle Park has dead trees that could be replaced. Mr. Snyder asked Mr. Bryant to notify Township staff about that issue.

Central Park Sign Update

Mr. Bryant stated that all the design, paperwork, etc. is completed for the replacement signs in Central Park. The manufacturer has informed the Township that signs will ship February 21st. They should be installed prior to the Spring Bird Walk.

Neshaminy Greenway Boxes

Mr. Hendrick stated that he has 6 Screech owl boxes and 12 bluebird boxes he wants to put in the Neshaminy Greenway Phase 2 Area. The EAC had no objections to this idea. Mr. Hendrick also stressed the importance of proper box design and consistent usage of that design.

Native Demonstration Garden

In December, Mr. Hendrick upon request from Mrs. Mitchell removed the caution tape and stakes at the Native Demonstration Garden, and created a new sign.

Mr. Snyder asked if Mr. Hendrick had enough plants for it, or if it needs more. Mr. Hendrick stated that with expected donations, the Native Demonstration Garden will have more than enough plants this spring.

Mr. Brooks inquired if there were label for the plants. He can provide temporary plant labels, but the EAC should look into a more permanent solution to maximize the educational value.

Mr. Colello suggested that as part of the EAC Summit, the Native Demonstration Garden and Environmental Education Area could be displayed.

Board of Supervisors Presentation

On Tuesday, February 3rd at 5PM, the Board of Supervisors has asked each Township Board and Committee to do a short presentation (10 minutes or less) on their 2014 accomplishments and 2015 goals. As part of the Bird on a Wire Award application, Mrs. Mitchell had to create a presentation to sum up 2014 EAC activities that will be reused for this purpose. Mr. Hendrick will create 2015 EAC Goals that Mr. Bryant will add to that presentation.

Recycling

Mr. Sablosky reminded the EAC of the importance of not just its work with nature, but also other environmental concerns, most notably recycling. The EAC had discussed recycling during the fall, and allocated money in its budget to address recycling issues.

While the EAC found in the fall that tires and household hazardous waste would not be good recycling options, he wanted to continue to follow up on providing electronics recycling and greater encouragement of recycling in the Township. He specifically mentioned some recycling programs in Monroe County that the EAC could look into.

In regards to electronics recycling, Mr. Bryant read an email he received from a vendor provided by Bucks County that provided a 40 cubic yard dumpster for electronics recycling at no costs. The EAC decided that this option was far too large, and that other alternatives should be investigated.

Mr. Sablosky also pointed out that it cost less in trash bills for residents to recycle and that an increasing amount of items can be recycled. Mr. Snyder suggested that the Township and EAC find ways to

communicate this issue to the public. Finally, Mr. Bryant noted that there is also a financial incentive for the Township to encourage recycling due to the 904 grant, and explained some of the actions he takes each year to encourage it, such as newsletter articles and mailings.

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53PM by Mr. Hendrick.

Next Meeting will be February 10th, 2015 at 7PM