

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
October 13th, 2015

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Raymond Hendrick (Chairman), Dr. Tanya Casas, Jeannine Mitchell, Don Richardson, Martin Brooks; Supervisors: Ken Snyder (Liaison), Shawn Touhill; Autumn Canfield (Special Projects Coordinator)

Meeting began at 7:00pm
Mr. Hendrick called meeting to order.

Mr. Brooks requested to be called instead of e-mailed from now on.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Richardson motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Brooks 2nd. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Review

There were no plans to review.

New Business

Mr. Touhill joined the meeting as a resident and board member. He came with two suggestions for the EAC.

1. Adopt a road program- Make the EAC more visible by adopting a road and getting out to do clean ups.
2. Use the historic tree list as a public relations tool. Put the qualifications in the newsletter for the residents to see and have residents contact the township about it. Maybe expand this to a tree tour sponsored by the EAC.

Mr. Touhill will provide the state list of trees to Mr. Brooks to look at. EAC will have to look at qualifications of our tree list compared to others and see if natives are included or not.

Climate Change Action Plan- Dr. Casas spoke with the ICLEI, an organization who guides groups through the development of a climate change action plan. They are not a full consultant but do provide aide. Doylestown Township already does some of the things in a typical plan. The ICLEI would assess what we are currently doing and develop goals for the township. After some discussion it was decided Dr. Casas would reach out to a member of Lower Makefield Township, as they already have a plan in place, and invite them to speak with to our EAC. The ICLEI works with townships based on their priorities. For our purposes, maybe add an aspect of food systems to our plan. The membership would cost \$600 per year which includes access to an online system and cloud system. Once a member, there are various opportunities offered including different grants.

Dr. Casas intends to conduct a research project around food systems and it was suggested that maybe Delaware Valley University should be included in an action change plan as well. Dr. Mertz had already reached out with interest around the topic. More information will be provided next meeting regarding the progression of research on this topic.

Board vacancy- Mrs. Canfield received an e-mail from Mr. Colin Cameron informing the township of

resignation of his board position due to relocation. Thus far, three people have shown interest in the vacant spot and two have submitted the proper paperwork for application.

Mr. Snyder explained the process of board vacancy application review. Each applicant is interviewed by the Board of Supervisors. Based on the current openings, the Board will suggest where they feel the applicant would be of the most help. They do not want to turn anyone away.

DTV piece- The Doylestown Township Telecommunications Advisory Board has asked the EAC to do a brief introductory video of who they are and what they do. There is currently video of EAC activities such as the Planting with Purpose seminar. Use video like this and explain the committee.

Newsletter- The memo for the call for articles has gone out for the Winter/Spring township newsletter. These articles are due on December 10th, 2015. Mr. Brooks was nominated to write a piece about tree dying due to poor mulching practices. Mrs. Mitchell agreed to edit the piece.

Bucks Beautiful- Bucks Beautiful would like to plant 10,000 daffodils in Central Park near the castle. It was stated that the matter should be referred to Park and Rec. At first reaction, daffodils are nice, but wouldn't want them in the native garden or the woods and are there really a place for them? Overall, it was decided the EAC is against the proposition due to the volume of the intended planting. There may be an appropriate spot for the flowers, but not in Central Park.

Grants- Mrs. Canfield distributed information about new grants that are available for the EAC to review and decide if they would like to submit a project.

Photographer- During the planting at Bridgepoint Park, it was discovered that a photographer often uses the spot for wedding photos. Some of the plants that were placed are in the way of certain favorable backdrops. The EAC decided to review the spots and allow the plants to be relocated.

Budget- Mr. Snyder reviewed budget numbers with the EAC and asked if the amount allocated last year was sufficient. The EAC requested to raise the budget from \$5,800 to \$6,000 as they have certain projects they would like to do in the next year.

Old Business

Congratulations to Mrs. Mitchell on a very successful Planting with Purpose workshop. It was well attended and the speakers were very knowledgeable and interesting.

Mr. Snyder raised the question of if there was anything more we could do to educate residents. How do we persuade local landscapers to plant natives or at least provide them as alternatives?

Ideas include mailings to nearby landscapers and a website or facebook page with information on natives that the EAC could encourage people to go to.

At Warrington day, a landscaper was giving away free trees, but not natives. There is a conference at Delaware Valley University with local landscapers in January. The EAC may send a speaker to spread the word on native plants. There was also a discussion around how to reach the residents. Are they concerned about money? If yes, are native plants cheaper/ more economical in the long run?

There is a change in the culture around how people think of plants, but it is slow moving. The EAC

would like to do what they can to quicken the turn. A native plant presentation was suggested for the spring. There is potential with the spread of knowledge through children by presenting at Kutz elementary during a bird walk with take home sheets they can show their families. Even if the parents don't change, the kids may grow up thinking about it. It would be a transition message. Mrs. Mitchell will think about how to go about this and contact the teacher she previously worked with on the bird walk.

Birdtown award- Are we still in the running? Jeannine is currently sending in paperwork for award.

Mrs. Canfield will put the blank document into a pdf format and e-mail it to Mrs. Mitchell.

Other

The next meeting of this committee will be held November 10th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield
Special Projects Coordinator