

Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes December 11, 2018

J. Baldassarre

M. Brooks

T. Casas

J. Herring (Supervisor)

S. Mason (Manager)

J. Mitchell (Chair)

D. Richardson (Vice Chair)

H. Shiver

A. Susten (Special Projects Coordinator)

A. Woodbury

Guests:

D. Woods

K. Peters

J. McGroarty

November meeting minutes were approved

Budget reviewed. EAC agreed to support 4 participants to the Bowmans' Hill Land Ethics Symposium using remaining 2018 budget. A. Susten will purchase tickets as soon as available.

New Business:

J. Mitchell was nominated to remain as EAC Chair for another year and was approved by unanimous vote.

J. Mitchell is meeting with William Licopoli, a science teacher at CB West HS to possibly create an academic partnership between CB West Environmental Studies Program and the EAC. A curriculum will be worked out which will provide hands-on educational benefit to students while facilitating local action, such as eradication of invasive species or recycling education.

Unfinished Business:

The Ready for 100 subcommittee (J. Baldassarre, T. Casas, H. Shiver) gave an update on next steps. Transition to 100% renewable electricity should be the goal, but there may be numerous smaller actions before we get to that point. We are exploring collaboration with Steve Nelson, adjunct professor at Del Val U, to assist with an Energy Transition Plan, with meeting planned for mid-December. Steve Clark from PECO is willing to meet the EAC to demonstrate energy efficiency reports available from PECO; J. Baldassarre will schedule. We should also explore grants for electric vehicles and charging stations. Draft resolutions are available for discussion in the near future.

Bucks County Audubon is organizing a solar house tour to raise awareness of solar as a viable option for homeowners. The date is May 4, 2019 and BCA is looking for homeowners to offer their homes as examples.

Audubon Society Year of the Bird Proclamation was adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Bucks County Audubon will have a celebration at Honey Hollow on December 19. EAC members are encouraged to attend.

The landscaping and noxious weed ordinances are currently with the Planning Commission for finalization. These should be approved by February. There should also be an educational outreach to residents to understand the new ordinance and the benefits of planting natives. There are numerous existing educational pamphlets and one will be selected for distribution in the spring.

The EAC calendar was created by A. Susten and was reviewed and approved. It will be distributed in January. This can also be created as a sharable Google Calendar if there is interest.

H. Shiver shared the final EAC Strategic Plan. Some items still need owners to be assigned. The plan will be reviewed quarterly and updated as needed.

A. Susten will assist with EAC name badges. She will provide some sample versions at the next meeting.

The issue of deer overpopulation was discussed. The issue is controversial and there are no easy solutions. The EAC will do an informational article in the township newsletter at some point soon.

J. Mitchell has proposed to make better use of the outdoor environmental education space in Central Park. She is proposing a “family nature walk’ in Central Park, and she offers to lead this. Date to be determined. M. Brooks has also offered to lead a tree walk at Del Val U in June. However, if it is a Township event on DVU property, there may be liability issues. S. Mason will advise on this. An alternative would be a tree walk in Central Park.

The EAC has been encouraged to submit the Native Plant Demonstration Garden for the Land Ethics Award. The award is presented at the Land Ethics Symposium in March 2019; the application is due by January 18, 2019.

The Pine Run Reservoir signage will be installed by end of year, and a celebration will be planned.

M. Brooks and D. Richardson will visit the Ash Road site on December 12 to recommend buffer plantings.

The Artmobile will visit Kutz Elementary for Earth Day 2019. This is a school event and not open to the public or the EAC without school permission.

A subcommittee is needed to plan activities for Earth Day 2019.

BirdTown activities. The Christmas Bird Count will take place on Sunday December 30. Interested persons should contact Diane Allison directly to be assigned to a team; some may also join the Chalfont Borough BT group. The contact info has been distributed to BirdTown members and friends. The bluebird trail maintenance will take place on February 5, weather permitting. Several people have already volunteered to assist.

A. Woodbury reported that the Intelligencer and the Herald have corrected incorrect facts in their newspaper coverage of the 200-tree program. J. Mitchell read a letter of congratulations regarding the 200-tree initiative, from Robin M. Robinson, Recorder of Deeds.

EAC video and the TAB. K. Peters joined the meeting to explain the management of Township video and DTV. The EAC has a good amount of content, although some of it is dated. He explained how to make

good video, and also encouraged the EAC to reach out to other parties to identify already available video that might be appropriate for the EAC DTV slot. DTV and the website and Youtube channel can also be used to promote EAC activities and events.