

Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2018

In attendance:

J. Baldassarre  
M. Brooks  
T. Casas  
J. Herring  
S. Mason  
J. Mitchell (Chair)  
D. Richardson (Vice Chair)  
H. Shiver  
K. Snyder  
A. Susten (Intern)  
A. Woodbury

Guests:

Jeff Schumacher

- Introductions. Jennifer Herring is the new Supervisor liaison to the EAC. Welcome to Heidi Shiver as a new EAC member.
- December meeting minutes were approved

New Business:

Diane Smith (BC Audubon) has agreed to lead a bird walk on May 5 at 8am. This will be advertised on the website, newsletter and elsewhere. A Birdtown Summit will be held on March 17 in New Britain boro. There will also be a birding workshop to be held in February in advance of the Great Backyard Bird Count (Feb 15-19); date and place to be confirmed. A. Susten will add these events to the next newsletter.

EAC Summit and speaker series. The Township building will be unavailable, so T. Casas will look for a meeting space at DVU. Possible speakers were considered: Dr Marilyn Howarth; Larry Weiner; Paul Cowie.

Delaware Riverkeepers Networks is asking local municipalities to sign a Resolution to forever ban fracking in the Delaware watershed. This would be important to provide to the Delaware River Basin Commission before a vote on Feb 28. The Resolution would need to be approved by the Supervisors, and buy-in is also needed from the Doylestown Water Authority. K. Snyder suggests introducing the topic to the Supervisors at the Feb 6 Supervisors meeting and request a vote at the Feb 20 meeting. The EAC unanimously agreed to request the Supervisors support for the Resolution. J. Mitchell will provide the annual update to the Supervisors on Feb 6.

J. Mitchell proposes to create a new mission statement and action plan for the EAC. Each member is encouraged to come to the next meeting with 1 'value' to use as a starting point for discussion. J. Schumacher suggests that there are lots of invasive species in the township woods that could be cleared

and replanted. Eileen Hee is an expert in restoring native vegetation and she may be able to advise the EAC on how to do this. Long term goal

H. Shiver is arranging distribution of the Lyme Disease pamphlets. K. Snyder asked the committee to be sure that the list of recommended plants is aligned with the list of recommended plants in the Land Development Ordinance.

Dan Duran will be speaking at DVU at 6:30 on Feb 7.

Old Business:

Oak Tree Project: M. Brooks is still trying to source trees for the Bicentennial Oak tree program. We still need to figure out a date for purchase of the ball-and-burlap trees. Some oaks are susceptible to leaf scorch and a variety of species will be used for this program. Oak tree sponsorship was promoted at the Gala. In addition, it is now posted at the YMCA and the Food Coop. J. Baldassarre still negotiating with Temple Judea and County Theater for advertising. This will also be promoted at the Garden Party in May. There was a request to have a sample honor-board plaque to demonstrate at the Party as well, and A. Woodbury will try to arrange one. So far, 26 sponsored oaks have been sold and 4 container oaks. It was agreed that the program could be allowed to run into 2019 in order to get all 200 trees sponsored.

There was discussion that having 2 different oak programs may be confusing, and since the sponsored oaks are more important for the Bicentennial celebration, we should let the container oak program fade out. This was agreed. A. Woodbury will be sure that all container oaks that are sold will get to the buyers. A. Susten to modify the ad and the website info.

Native Plant Garden: Next work day is March 24 9-11am. Garden Party is scheduled for May 6. The EAC will send written invitations to various groups including Township officials and volunteers, Township associations, schools and homeowners associations. A. Susten will develop the invitation and arrange printing and distribution. Food will be limited to soft drinks and cookies. J. Baldassarre has identified a jazz trio to provide music and has also connected with the West Jazz band to perform. We also need a program, speaker. A subcommittee will meet on Jan 30 at 9:30 am to arrange next steps. A. Woodbury provided a draft of an informational signboard to be created by Boucher and James. Bowman's Hill Nursery will be added as a resource for individuals to contact. The sign should be in place before the May 6 event.

Doug Tallamy video is being edited for presentation on the Township public access channel.

J. Baldassarre has the list of bluebird boxes in the Township. Boxes will be cleaned and repaired on the weekend of Feb 24 and 25, weather permitting. J. Schumacher and D. Wood have offered to assist.

DT did not get a grant from the State to remediate Sauerman Park Pond. J. Baldassarre will follow up with Princeton Hydro to see if there are other grants available or what else might be done. Horticultural Trust is one possible source of grant money; Andrea S. is investigating our eligibility for that source and others;

Next EAC meeting is Feb 13.