

Doylestown Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Feb 13 2018

In attendance:

J. Baldassarre
T. Casas
R. Colello
J. Herring
J. Mitchell (Chair)
D. Richardson (Vice-Chair)
A. Susten (intern)
A. Woodbury

Guests
D. Wood

Meeting Minutes are approved without changes

Plans: Preserve at Burke Farm plans were reviewed and no changes are suggested.

Heritage trees: Three Heritage trees are awaiting assessment. A. Susten is maintaining a list. Assessments will restart in April. D. Richardson will create a standardized template for recording assessments.

Budget: EAC voted to donate \$100 to County Theater as 'in-kind' donation for '200 Oaks' on-screen advertising. \$375 is approved for musical entertainment at Garden Party.

Bird walk: Scheduled for May 5 at 8am. J. Baldassarre agreed to act as videographer for the event, and will use equipment from TAB. Need to advertise event. A. Susten will create a promotional piece for use on social media.

EAC Summit will be held on June 7 at 6:30. T. Casas has secured a room at DVU. Need to notify other EACs in April. J. Baldassarre will ask Dr Marilyn Howarth to speak. [Post meeting note: EAC Summit has been moved to June 14 at 6:30.]

Tech Advisory Board has agreed to expand the EAC video library. The Dan Duran lecture is being edited for presentation on the Township public access channel. Peter Marra, author of 'Cat Wars' will speak at DVU on March 6 and will also be videoed for the video library.

After consultation with the TAB, J. Mitchell suggested that we create a township Instagram account to supplement the social media presence. This could be used for quick updates and real-time info on the Native Plant Demonstration Garden, bird walks or other activities. To ensure that the posted material is appropriate for the township general audience, we would need a process for approving and posting content. TAB should make a proposal to S. Mason. J. Mitchell to follow up.

J. Mitchell has carefully reviewed the list of 'Recommended landscape and buffer plants' in the Township Landscape Ordinance. The list is old and outdated, and has errors and even suggests some exotic and invasive species. The list should be updated, and we should also include a list of DCNR 'Invasive Plants' to be avoided. J. Mitchell will make revisions and a new proposal for April.

J. Mitchell has suggested creating a separate Doylestown Bird Town Committee rather than the township's and the borough's EACs in order to increase activity on that front. New members and leadership will be needed. This idea was endorsed, and will be discussed further in March.

Dan Duran gave lecture at DVU in January of the importance of insect biodiversity. Research indicates that spraying for mosquitos is counterproductive. At the same time, there is a need to protect the public from mosquito-borne diseases. EAC wished to initiate a dialog with the township on the Township's policy on spraying, the pros and cons of spraying and possible alternatives. J. Baldassarre will do some preliminary research and make a proposal to the EAC.

The Township policy for meadow mowing was discussed. There has been a long-held desire to minimize open space mowing to accommodate ground nesting birds; ideally, no mowing between April and July. The area around Pine Run Reservoir is of particular importance. J. Mitchell to contact Dave Tompko about the mowing schedule. The EAC also discussed the importance of invasive plant removal and meadow restoration. Grant money will be needed. This is a long-term project. Invite Jeff Schumacher to EAC for suggestions.

J. Mitchell asked the EAC members to suggest 'values' which will be the basis for development of a new Mission Statement. The Mission Statement needs to be concordant with the EAC's legal 'Statement of Purpose'. Suggested values are:

- Sustainability/Regeneration/Legacy;
- Education;
- Comprehensive Plan for Recycling, Trash and Septic;
- Community Outreach;
- Maintaining the appearance and character of the community;
- Leadership on important issues (exemplar);
- Stewardship

The Mission Statement will be ongoing activity over the next several months.

Draft Resolution to ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin from the Delaware Riverkeepers Network has been put forth to the Supervisors for Township endorsement. Next meeting is March 6 at 4pm. J. Herring will get this on the agenda. All EAC members are encouraged to attend and voice support.

Bucks Beautiful has agreed to sponsor oak trees in the parks.

M. Brooks still looking at potential suppliers for oak trees.

EAC banner is now available.

Native Plant Demonstration Garden party planned for May 6. Subcommittee will meet for planning. Garden sign is being prepared. J. Mitchell, A. Woodbury and A. Susten will finalize selection of pictures.

EAC and Kutz Elementary will share the cost of ArtMobile for Earth Day 2019. Also, EAC and Kutz will discuss the possibility of jointly developing a 'pocket meadow' at the school with support from Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.

Fonthill plans renovations to the property and would like to clear trees to improve sight lines to the 'Little House in the Woods'. D. Richardson will reach out to the Font Hill to be sure they are aware of the ordinance on tree removal. Sinclair Salisbury, township code officer, has been notified of Fonthill's plans.

Sauerman Park pond: No new activity. J. Baldassarre will follow up with Princeton Hydro for next steps. This is probably a long-term issue.

Next EAC meeting is March 13. William Edgar Geil lecture at DVU is also on March 13 at 7 PM. The EAC agrees to meet at DVU at 5pm, prior to the lecture. T. Casas will find a meeting room. We will try to make this a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Board.