

Doylestown Township EAC Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2020

J. Baldassarre
M. Carota (guest)
T. Casas
S. Mason
J. Mitchell (Chair)
Kara Raymond (guest)
C. Sawyer
H. Shiver
D. Tomko
J. Walter (guest)
D. Wood (Supervisor)
A. Woodbury
And numerous other residents

Meeting minutes from November approved

Budget reviewed. No issues raised

J. Mitchell was re-elected for another term as Chair of the EAC

J. Mitchell read into the record a statement on the importance of land management and preservation.

The first part of the meeting consisted of 2 detailed presentations about a proposed trail development in the Neshaminy Greenway, a plan from Bucks County which had been submitted for public comment several years ago. Although funding has not been granted, an engineering survey is planned. The planned trail is about 14' wide, paved with asphalt and has several bridges.

Marie Carota gave a detailed description of the proposed trail, it's history, the nature of the land and water along that stretch of the Neshaminy Creek and a description of the expected negative impacts of a paved trail in that area. This area is clearly a wetland and should be protected. Her specific request is that the EAC support a request that the County do an independent environmental assessment.

Jim Walter described a long-term study of stream bank erosion along the Neshaminy Creek, which is very dramatic in certain areas. Overall analysis indicates that large areas of paved and impervious surfaces in the Doylestown area are contributing to erosion and degradation of the Neshaminy, and we must limit the growth of impervious surfaces.

Since this project belongs to the County, Doylestown has no authority over this matter. The EAC is willing to endorse a letter to the County requesting an environmental assessment. In addition, the residents are encouraged to speak with other affected townships and the County Planning Commission (Evan Stone). The residents will prepare a statement for the EAC to use. In addition, D. Wood offered to guide a walk of the area for the EAC at some convenient time.

Solebury Township is actively investigating their deer overpopulation and a deer summit may be planned.

The planned home development on 10 acres off Meetinghouse road was discussed. Previously farmland and 1 house. Sketch plans had previously been distributed, and J. Mitchell and H. Shiver visited the site. The EAC recommends that the developer consider a mixture of meadow and tree planting. A full plan with planting list will come later in the process.

C. Sawyer now has access to a large volume of electric bills which he will tabulate and analyze as the first step in an energy transition plan. J. Baldassarre will connect directly with S. Mason about the value of an EV charging station at the Township building. Grants are available through the Commonwealth.

A. Woodbury is working 2 new tree signs. The images still need work so this project will go into next year.

Invasive Plant of the month will be English Ivy.

J. Mitchell proposes to expand the native plant demonstration garden. She will be reviewing the site with Karen Sweeney, Dave Tomko and Chris Mason to make decision on the new borders.

Kathy Brown and J. Mitchell are working on scheduling a meeting with Dave Tomko and Chris Mason in early January to discuss the Park Partners idea.

H. Shiver reports that the Christmas Bird Count will go forward with 2 small teams this year. Heidi and John Shiver have continued to clean, maintain and replace boxes over time. Heidi is also in touch with the County Planning Commission to have all bluebird boxes mapped by GIS.

The issue of maintenance of unused Township properties (lots) was discussed by the Board of Supervisors. These properties could be sold off by auction, but each lot is quite small, and there are no immediate plans to sell these. K. Raymond is asking what the TWP can do to clean and maintain the Sheridan Road property. The Township is actively managing hazardous trees but doesn't have enough staff to do additional maintenance on these lots. In light of loss of Ash trees, some tree planting in these areas could be considered. Mini-forests on township property was also discussed, and these 2 issues could be put together in some way. D. Tomko asked the EAC to make a recommendation for how such properties should be managed.

The memorial tree for Don Richardson has been planted and Don's partner is planning to pay for a bench as well.

The next EAC meeting will be held on January 12 at 7pm.