

## Doylestown EAC Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2020

### In Attendance:

J. Baldassarre  
T. Casas  
S. Mason (TWP Manager)  
J. Mitchell (Chair)  
C. Sawyer  
H. Shiver  
A. Susten (Special Projects)  
D. Wood  
A. Woodbury  
Elaine Haynes (Guest)

Minutes from July were approved with 1 correction

The budget was reviewed. Native plant brochures were purchased but were provided at no cost from Staples due to a quality issue. The EAC judges those brochures to be acceptable and has offered to pay Staples half of the expected \$512 dollars.

New Britain borough has asked for 100 of the brochures and has offered to pay \$100. The EAC agreed, as a matter of policy, to give away brochures up to 10 at a time at no cost. Outside organizations who request more than 10 will be asked to reimburse the TWP \$1 each.

### New Business

Elaine Haynes introduced herself to the EAC. She is a new resident and a Master Gardener and is interested to see the range of projects that the EAC is following.

S. Mason informed the EAC that there was tremendous storm damage from the recent tornado, mainly centered near Chestnut Valley Drive and Shady Retreat Road. There were many large trees lost on private land and the area is still in clean up mode. The township is not obliged to replant trees on private land but wanted the EAC to be aware in case assistance or advice could be provided to replant.

### Ongoing Business

Pooles Corner tree planting will take place on Saturday Sept 12 and EAC members are encouraged to assist with the tree planting. S. Mason will coordinate activities with Joe Wallace at Doylestown Borough.

The regional EAC Summit will be held by Zoom on Wed October 7 at 7pm. The agenda was discussed and revised, and moderators assigned. A. Susten has sent the 'Save the Date' notice, and will ask the other EACs to submit a brief summary of activities over the past year. H. Shiver will ask T. Price (New Britain Borough) to give a 10 minute report on BirdTown. J. Baldassarre will ask J. Wallace at Doylestown Borough to speak on plans for reduction of single use plastic.

Ready for 100 reported some successes with resolutions in Solebury and a proposed resolution in Buckingham. D. Wood will assist the subcommittee to meet with TWP staff to review electricity usage in the TWP.

Bird Town is in flux because of the merger of PA and Maryland-DC Audubon and not clear what will happen exactly to the program moving forward It will likely merge with the Bird Friendly Communities program. To keep the momentum going with the existing Bird Town program, Bucks Audubon will hold a virtual Annual Summit on Oct. 24 from 10-12 for the 10 local groups in our area. A Save the Date email should go out soon. A. Susten reports that as part of the Township 'Camp in a Bag' program, birdseed and bird feeder projects were delivered to 46 homes this summer.

We note that October 24 is also the date for an Invasive Plant workshop, from 9-11 am so the EAC will need to coordinate our participation.

EAC notes a notable decline in insects in general (except for Spotted Lanternfly, which are clearly increasing). We wonder if widespread private mosquito spraying may be having an effect. J. Mitchell proposes a lawn sign campaign (mirroring the exterminators lawn signs) to call attention to pesticide free lawns. J. Mitchell will work with T. Casas and A. Susten to create images and text.

Invasive plant of the month for August will be Purple Loosetrife.

The Native Plant Demonstration Garden had 7 volunteers in July. Weed control is the main issue. Plants will also need to be thinned.

A. Woodbury is creating new signage for Central Park on the topic of trees. The themes are 'Trees and People' and 'Trees and the Environment'

The deer paper was circulated and will be posted on the website and later in the Township newsletter. A deer survey was also circulated, but was tabled, since there are no additional actions planned. The main issue is educating residents to minimize the problems of deer interactions (even if we can't reduce the number of deer).

Don Richardson's partner has paid for a Yellowwood tree and a spot has been selected. If she wishes a bench, the price was reported, and the bench would have to conform to the park standards.

The idea of mini-forests was revisited. While there is general support for the idea, support and involvement will be needed. S.Mason also points out that surveys may be needed to identify property boundaries for some parcels.

The next EAC meeting is scheduled for September 8 at 7pm.