

Doylestown Township EAC Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2020

J. Baldassarre
M. Scott
T. Casas
S. Mason
J. Mitchell (Chair)
C. Sawyer
H. Shiver
Aaron Walizer (Special Projects Coordinator)
D. Wood (Supervisor)
A. Woodbury

Meeting minutes from December are approved

Budget reviewed. No issues raised.

J. Mitchell was re-elected for another term as Chair of the EAC. In addition, Anne Woodbury continues as Vice Chair and J. Baldassarre will serve as Secretary.

Aaron Walizer joins the EAC as Special Projects Coordinator.

New Business:

Mel Scott is a resident who has raised the issue of toxic pesticides and other chemicals in our local environment, and the impact on pets, people, insects and wildlife. She is advocating for Non-toxic Environment Communities and has done the research to be very knowledgeable on the subject. She is particularly interested in meeting with HOAs and is asking for guidance from the EAC. M. Scott has a presentation prepared. The EAC notes that this is a subject we have discussed many times and is part of our Strategic Plan. H. Shiver and J. Baldassarre are willing to assist. We agree the first step may be a letter from the EAC to the HOAs. S. Mason has a list of HOAs. H. Shiver and M. Scott will draft the letter.

In follow-up to the discussion in December regarding erosion along the Neshaminy Creek and the proposed trail development in the Dark Hollow Park parallel to Pebble Hill Rd. (Neshaminy Greenway Trail segment 2), the Bucks County Planning Commission is now holding a series of meetings to get additional community input. Doylestown TWP is asked to provide a representative from EAC and from the Bike and Hike Committee to provide input at a series of meetings. This may be a significant time commitment. J. Mitchell will serve as representative at the first meeting, but C. Sawyer and T. Casas have also offered to participate as scheduling allows. S. Mason to get more information from Evan Stone about the likely dates and times.

The EAC is asked to provide input to a survey regarding the proposed Rec Center in Central Park. The EAC jointly answered a written survey form and J. Baldassarre will circulate the draft responses for finalization. J. Baldassarre will represent the EAC to the Ballard-King Engineering firm for a debrief on

Feb 2. In general, there was concern about the lack of transparency to this point with the planning process and the size and cost of the proposed building, and its impact on the character of the park.

J. Mitchell circulated a map of Central Park for discussion. There is a desire to expand the Environmental Education Center. The EAC is looking for suggestions. We are noting fewer birds in the park. A sassafras grove is one option for the expansion.

The Strategic Plan needs review. However, time is limited and EAC members are asked to comment off-line with suggestions. Notes should be sent to H. Shiver.

Subcommittees:

H. Shiver will be stepping away from the Ready for 100 subcommittee. 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; this activity is ongoing. 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. However, the current images are not usable and need to be reworked. A. Walizer will assist with finding additional appropriate images for the signs

Invasive Plant of the month program is ongoing. The next invasive weed will be English Ivy. (December - English Ivy; January - oriental bittersweet)

H. Shiver has proposed 4 dates for bird walks this year: April 10th, May 8th, September 18 and October 9. The bluebird box cleanout will be held on Feb 27.

There is now a plan to expand the Native Plant Demonstration Garden. There is now a 5-person committee which will develop a plan through 2022. Ash trees adjacent to the NPDG will be removed and the underbrush slowly cleared.

The next garden workday will be Saturday March 27.

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. This may be merged with some proposal for maintenance of the township owned open lots. The EAC feels that those open lots should be allowed to remain undeveloped. The EAC should prepare a statement and possibly present a plan to put forward to the Board of Supervisors.

The next EAC meeting will be held on February 9 at 7pm.