

Doylestown Township EAC Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021

J. Baldassarre
J. Mitchell (Chair)
C. Mullin (Ways and Means and Pension Review Board)
K. Raymond (guest)
C. Sawyer
H. Shiver
A. Walizer (Special Projects Coordinator)
D. Wood (Supervisor)
A. Woodbury (Vice-Chair)

Meeting minutes from February are approved.

Budget reviewed. Budget for 2021 is \$5500. No spending thus far this year

New Business:

Colleen Mullin (Ways and Means and Pension Review Board) is asking the EAC for input on a proposal to have the TWP develop a leaf and yard waste collection program. This is done in other townships as well as Doylestown Borough. It would provide a useful service and also ensure that yard waste is composted properly. The TWP already has a yard waste drop off program, a waste grinder and a compost pile where residents can pick up compost. She is suggesting that there could be a pick-up program 1 or 2 times per year. The EAC endorses the idea but the process will be up to the TWP officials. There is not enough TWP staff to do this, so it would need to be contracted out, and that would require budget. A. Woodbury will discuss the idea with D. Tomko.

Arbor Day is April 24. The main project this year will be to replant trees in the tornado damaged areas of the TWP, but that will require planning and coordination with PennDOT, so that is now scheduled for the fall. For the April planting, the EAC recommends an assortment of small evergreens to buffer the Native Plant Garden from the nearby homes. These would be 1-gallon White Pine and Eastern Red Cedar trees. Volunteers will assist TWP staff. A. Walizer will coordinate this activity.

J. Mitchell provided a video Annual Report to the Board of Supervisor, and this is available on the TWP Youtube channel.

Ongoing Business:

Large deer populations continue to be a problem in the County. Solebury TWP is performing a deer count to assess the population density. In addition, a 'Deer Summit' is proposed to coordinate action across several townships. H. Shiver also proposed an expert speaker Jay Kelly from Raritan Valley College for the Summit.

The Strategic Plan was reviewed in some detail, with emphasis on activities that have not been completed. A number of items must be pushed off till next year due to the load of activities and Covid

restrictions. The plan will be reviewed again in September/October and a new plan will be proposed for next year.

Kara Raymond was nominated for Associate Member and was approved. Welcome Kara!

The EAC has an activity calendar on TeamUp and A. Walizer will share the link.

A Ready for 100 Resolution was passed by Bucks County on February 12 and this occurred independent of the local Ready for 100 group. In addition, the County has circulated a draft ordinance for the permitting of alternative energy: solar, wind, wood, geothermal passive solar etc. The ordinance also contains incentives similar to our 'Green Points' program. The ordinance enables but does not mandate transition to clean renewable energy sources, nor does it address outdated building codes. The EAC has been encouraged to discuss this ordinance with the Planning Commission for next steps. J. Mitchell will facilitate the meeting and C. Sawyer and J. Baldassarre will participate. In addition, the TWP staff has identified an excellent grant opportunity for EV charging stations through the Commonwealth "Volkswagen Settlement" to place chargers in public places and we will pursue this with assistance from the County.

Bucks County Audubon Society will have an outdoor Earth Day event on April 10. No one from the EAC is available to participate.

The Neshaminy Greenway trail has been significantly modified in response to community feedback. The EAC will continue to participate in the planning process.

H. Shiver is working with Mel Scott on an education program for Non-toxic Communities. Direct outreach to HOAs is not advisable but educational brochures will be created. A. Walizer and K. Swisher will assist with the development of the brochures.

Bird Town volunteers cleaned 40 bluebird boxes and relocated several others off the Rt 202 bypass. Ideally the boxes should be monitored for success, and this can be part of the Cornell University ornithology citizen science program called NestWatch.

A. Woodbury, J. Mitchell, K. Raymond will try to schedule a meeting with D. Tomko to discuss open lots around the TWP.

The next workday for the Native Plant Demonstration Garden will be Saturday March 27, and several expert volunteers are already scheduled. The first activity will be to plan and clean an area for expansion. The EAC voted in favor of authorizing approximately \$150 dollars to purchase 3 large tarps to facilitate the clean-up.

Jane Neal has volunteered to maintain a chalkboard/memo board at the NPDG to describe 'What's in Bloom'. There is some concern about vandalism. Still to be considered.

The 2 tree signs are still under development. However, the TWP will be able to build the frames in-house at considerable savings; the new costs will be \$766. The EAC needs to select a location for the 2 signs.

A. Woodbury reported on the Upper Makefield tree planting incentive program. Because there is little new development in UM TWP, the program is no longer self-funding. In Doylestown TWP developers are required to replace any trees that they remove, so funding replacement trees is not required. The EAC

agrees not to pursue this. K. Swisher suggest developing an informational brochure on the value of trees, which can be handed out at table events.

The EAC discussed the proposed Community Center in Central Park. There are significant concerns about the size and scope of this building and its impact on the park. The project itself has already been proposed and will likely go to completion. The TWP will need to borrow money to fund the project. If the project will definitely go forward, the EAC would like to ensure that best sustainable building practices are followed. J. Baldassarre will draft a letter for consideration, from the EAC to the BOS to express our recommendations and preferences about the proposed building.

Don Richardson's partner has funded a memorial bench for him, which will be situated in Central Park near the Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

The next EAC meeting will be held on April 13 at 7pm.