

# Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

## FEBRUARY 13, 2024

ATTENDEES: Jim Baldassare (Chair), Chad Clem (Secretary), Dan Wood (TWP Supervisor), Marcello Mangano, Erich Neal, Curt Sawyer, Heidi Shiver (Vice Chair), Chris Smirga, Andrea Susten (Asst TWP Manager), Anne Woodbury

- Public Comment
  - NA
- Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 2024
  - Minutes from Jan 9 Approved
  - Notes from Jan 22 (non quorum) meeting Approved
- Budget Review
  - EAC believes the budget should be closer to \$8500 but the budget only showing \$3561
  - [asusten@doylestownpa.org](mailto:asusten@doylestownpa.org) to follow-up
    - Need to budget for the following events:
      - Native plant demo garden budget
      - Garden Celebration
      - Arbor Day
      - Fencing for Hart’s Woods
      - Floating Gardens
- New Business
  - EAC Vice Chair & Secretary
    - Heidi elected Vice Chair
    - Chad elected Secretary.
- Ongoing Activities and Updates
  - Arbor Day - Friday April 26
    - Plant trees at Castle Valley - Saturday April 27, 2024 - 10-12
      - Jim will look into Pinelands Nursery and Octoraro Nursery for the saplings.
      - Stephanie Mason or one of the volunteers will read the proclamation for Arbor Day
      - Should we be doing more as a Shade Tree Commission?
        - Shrubs are quite valuable to the birds and are often neglected
        - Jim mentioned an online app that assesses the tree coverage for a community and will share out with the team
      - Anne will create an e news blast for the event
      - Jim will set up a Sign-Up Genius for the event
  - Single Use Plastic Bag Ban
    - New Solicitor (R. Clark) is evaluating the proposal
    - Judy is actively looking into this
    - Likely to happen Spring 2024

- EAC could offer a cloth or plant-based branded/logo bag (avoiding plastic reusable bags)
      - Curt will look into logoed cloth bags
- Garden 'leadership' reorganization and related activities
  - Danny McBride and Chad are working together
  - 2024 will focus on invasive removal
  - TWP is OK with volunteer clean ups occurring outside of Saturday as long as it doesn't conflict with the Wednesday concert series
  - Jim will oversee the weekday volunteer work
  - Chad will create the most critical invasives list that show imagery of the plants at various stages of growth
  - BirdTown volunteers may likely be interested in volunteering when they are in the park
  - Andrea said the TWP has a large plotter printer to print a map to store in the Environmental Education area
  - Team aligned on strategic, targeted and infrequent use of herbicide (glyphosate) to treat some of the most persistent invasives and by a certified professional
- Garden Celebration June 22 - 10 AM - 1 PM
  - Events should take place in the pond/garden area of the park
  - Jeannine can give a brief history and Chad & Danny can provide the vision for the future
  - Suggested an acoustic singer - Marcello will provide contact info to Jim
  - Scavenger Hunt happens every hour (set time)
  - Plant Infused Drinks - Andrea will f/u
    - Andrea will check on the alcohol permit needs
  - Who will help with the event:
    - Master Gardeners - Jim will follow-up
    - TWP Staff
    - Parks & Rec - Jim will follow-up
    - Jane Neal (pond area)
  - Anne will pull together a tentative agenda
  - Andrea suggested to solicit interest through TWP social media
  - Heidi & Marcello will run the scavenger hunt
  - Andrea will include a SAVE THE DATE in the TWP newsletter
  - Jim will include a hard copy of the SAVE THE DATE in the demo garden display
- BirdTown update
  - Nest box cleanout on Saturday 2/
  - Meeting on Jan 17 with 9 attendees
  - Birdwalks in May and October
  - Working closely with Westwyk Community
    - Native Plant giveaway
  - Working with Erich on an article for the Herald on the importance of Lights Out
  - Great Backyard Bird Count Notifications going out this week in TWP news - Feb 16-19

- Ready for 100
  - Shared Energy Manager (provided by the state) working with Curt and Jim
    - Looking at multiple projects
      - Ground mounted solar
      - Energy audit of admin building
      - Electric vehicle usage
  - TWP level opportunities
  - State-level opportunities
    - Community Solar needs to be legalized at the state level to achieve TWP goals
    - Building Codes
    - Met with Senator Steve Sanatsario
  - Need to write down the TWP Climate Action Plan
- Watershed Friendly Properties
  - Sheridan Rd property
    -
  - Ash Way property
    - Confident it will be finished this year
- Nighttime lighting in the TWP
  - Met with TWP on lighting
    - Some of the lights are already on timers
    - Public safety is top concern
    - No specific follow-ups came out of that meeting
    - Erich to draft a recommendation on the policy for the BOS
    - Erich to follow-up on the TWP rating for the Bortle scale (indicates degree of darkness)

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00PM**