

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes
September 13, 2011

In Attendance: Keith Peters, Chairman, Don Richardson, Shawn Touhill, Kelly McGowan and Bill Lloyd. EAC Member Ethan Prout attended the meeting via phone. Also in attendance were Tom Scarborough, Board of Supervisors Liaison, Sandra Zadell, Staff Liaison, Richard John, Director of Operations, Steve Rubenstein, visitor from Doylestown Borough EAC and Rick Colello, Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Peters began the meeting by requesting that the committee discuss the Bird Town Program, Steve Rubenstein was in attendance due to this topic. The committee discussed the cost of the program which will be \$225 from the Stormwater Budget, the consensus was to proceed but at that point in the meeting the committee did not have quorum so they had to wait to vote on this issue until later.

Mr. Rubenstein reported that Doylestown Borough is waiting on the Township's lead and they will vote at their next meeting on the Bird Town Program.

The Committee then discussed the leaf and yard waste drop off site that is now at Central Park. Mr. Peters reported that the Committee has been discussing how to get more participants and better use of the leaf and yard waste program. He also reported that during some of his volunteer time he roads crew informed him that the leaves are destructive for our chipper.

Mr. John stated that we would need different equipment for just the leaf collection; a full-fledged leaf mulcher. The committee discussed the percentage of leaf waste that we collected, Mr. Lloyd reported that during his volunteer times he as noticed that there is definitely more branches during the spring and summer, more leaves in the fall. He wondered if Delaware Valley College would take over just mulching the leaves. Mr. Touhill suggested dropping the excess leaves at a local farm and possibly talking to local farmers about that option.

The Committee discussed the options of having contractors to pick up the leaf waste at residents homes, in a contract situation. The correct way for residents to dropping the leaf waste at our current site was also discussed. Mr. John said that we should definitely be having the residents bring the leaves in the bags but take the bags home with them. Mr. Peters asked if it would help to have more drop off days per month. Mrs. Zadell commented that she doesn't think that residents would utilize more drop off days per month that they would prefer curbside pick-up but that is definitely expensive.

Mrs. Zadell mentioned that so far on the Trash Collection Surveys most residents have said that they don't utilize the leaf drop off site.

The Committee then discussed the option of a pilot stick collection program where the road crew would be able to collect the sticks at resident's curbside, bring them back to

the Township Building and chip them. The EAC liked that idea and said that they could do a Winter/Spring Newsletter article to follow up on Ms. McGowan's and that they should probably take this to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. McGowan made a motion to start a pilot program this spring for stick and branch collection curbside, the motion was seconded by Mr. Lloyd and the motion passed. Mr. Peters will present this idea to the Board of supervisors and the EAC will do a memo to the Board of Supervisors for the October meeting.

The Committee also discussed further ideas to increase the leaf and yard waste site usability until we get the pilot program off the ground. Mr. John did say that we could keep the public works yard open Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm, this would reduce the overtime cost and we could have people check in at the front desk and then be able to go drop their stuff in the bin. This is a possible suggestion for 2013.

The EAC also discussed the possibility of using landscapers that did work in the Township to attend and use the drop off site. They could check in at the front desk and there would be a paper trail of who is using the drop off. The one issue that we will have if we do go in this direction is the issue with people dropping off materials that we do not really want to accept.

Mrs. Zadell also reported that the whole reason that we do this leaf and yard waste collection is for the grant that we get from the state, which has been reduced in funding by 40% this year.

The Committee then discussed the upcoming leaf and yard waste collections dates. Mr. Peters will volunteer for the 9/17 date, Mr. Touhill gave a tentative commitment for the 10/15 date, Mr. Lloyd said that he would do the 11/12 date and Ms. McGowan will do the 12/10 date.

Mrs. Zadell will send an email to those not present to see if any of them can do the September or October yard waste collection date.

The Committee reviewed the minutes for the 6/14/11 meeting, on a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Lloyd the minutes passed.

The Committee reviewed the Pavilion plans, they decided on a motion made by Mr. Touhill, seconded by Mr. Lloyd to send a memo to the Pavilion owners that suggest the full cut off lighting and storm drain markers.

Mrs. Zadell gave a report on the trash survey as of today there were 349 responses to the trash survey. She reported on the front office competition that is going on, the front office staff has done a great job of collecting more of the surveys. Mrs. Zadell also stated that we should run the reminder in the Winter/Spring Newsletter for 2012 and after that see where to go from there. Mr. Peters suggested that after we get the survey results we should probably host Town Hall Meetings and then present to the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Zadell reported on Matt McGurk's Storm Drain Marker Program, he has risen over \$30 so far in donation for the storm drains and is continuing to work hard to increase donations.

The Committee discussed the World Wide Day of Play that is coming up and their idea for drawing cloud pictures. Mr. Touhill committed to fund raising to get paper supplies and Eastburn and Gray will handle supplying the crayons.

The Committee revisited the Bird Town issue and on a motion made by Mr. Touhill, seconded by Mr. Lloyd they agreed to recommend participation to the Board of Supervisors to participate in the Bird Town Program with Doylestown Borough for \$225. The motion passed.

The Committee discussed the Historic Tree Ordinances that have been before them. Mr. Touhill stated that he feels that a celebratory ordinance would be better than a punitive one. Ms. McGowan agreed with that notion. Mr. Peters discussed the issue of recognition or protection which angle should we pursue. He thought maybe if we were going to be just recognizing people we could just do proclamations for people we would not need to do an ordinance.

Mr. Lloyd stated that the Shade Tree Commission still needs to work to create and research the definition of Historic Trees in the Township and that they need to address some criteria for what we think is a historic tree. Mr. Lloyd pointed out that the Audubon Society already has a classification system.

Mr. Richardson made a motion to look at historic trees and come up with a draft Historic Tree Ordinance or policy. The motion was seconded by Ms. McGowan and the motion passed.

The EAC also suggested that we email the two residents who had contacted us a long time ago about the historic trees and just let them know that we are trying to get this situation sorted out and hopefully have a policy in place soon. The EAC also asked Mrs. Zadell to email the list of the Historic Trees that has been compiled, she will do that.

Mr. Touhill reported on the riparian buffers and the North Branch Watershed Association, they are holding a clean up event on 9/17/11 from 9am – Noon, there is also going to be an October clean up date. They are still focusing on education and looking forward to an Arbor Day event.

In regards to newsletter articles, Mrs. Zadell stated that they probably had too many articles for the Winter/Spring addition, so they cut the light bulb article.

Ms. McGowan reported on the Shred Event, she spoke with Bob Leventhall at Titan Mobil Shredding and they said that there are two dates available, May 12th or May 19th for a shred event from 9am – Noon or 10am – 1pm, the price was reduced from \$1,000

for a shred event to \$675. On a motion made by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Touhill the EAC made a motion to move forward with a May 12, 2012 Shred Event. The motion passed.

Mr. Peters introduced his year of action plan. He thinks it would be a good idea to have our year planned out, anticipate any issues that come up rather than deal with them at the last minute. He has a draft year of action plan that he is going to attach to each agenda and will remove the schedule at the bottom of the agenda. The EAC decided by consensus that this would be a great idea.

Mr. Richardson reported on the Open Space Committee. Three appraisals are out and he will have a report next month with more details for the agenda next month.

Mr. Peters also asked for the agenda next month that we include a section about videos for the EAC Hour, we need to start looking and researching to find more videos to include.

Mrs. Zadell stated that the PHS subscription is running out, it will need to be a \$50 purchase to renew this subscription. Motion was made by Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Ms. McGowan to approve the expenditure of \$50 to become a subscriber member of PHS for 2011 & 2012, the motion passed.

The committee adjourned at 8:35pm.

