

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
November 10th, 2015

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Raymond Hendrick (Chairman), Dr. Tanya Casas, Jeannine Mitchell, Don Richardson, Martin Brooks, Sean Sablosky; Supervisors: Ken Snyder (Liaison); Autumn Canfield (Special Projects Coordinator), Stephanie Mason (Manager), Kaci Milligan (Intern); guests Jim Bingler, Jim Baldasarre

Meeting began at 7:00pm
Mr. Hendrick called meeting to order.

Welcome to guests.

Minutes Approval

Dr. Casas moved to approve, Mr. Richardson second, motion carried unanimously.

Plan Review

There were no plans to review.

New Business

Tree Program-

A call was received about a sugar maple on New Britain Rd. The resident believe is may be eligible to add to the current trees of exceptional size list. Mr. Hendrick would like to expand this program and educate the residents about it. He proposes putting an article about record trees into the newsletter to circulate the word and ask for people to come forward to nominate potential trees for the list. Mr. Brooks and Mr. Richardson volunteered to help Mr. Hendrick with this initiative.

Grasso Property- Mr. Bingler joined the meeting to discuss the trees located on the Grasso property. He is concerned that there will be a substantial amount of woodlands destroyed in the development of the property and that only a fraction will be replaced. There has already been 204 trees removed from the area and there are another 400+ proposed.

When looking at plans, the EAC looks for native trees to be planted and evaluates what is to be removed.

Mr. Bingler asked how to recreate woodlands? What types of trees should be used?

It was explained that most people on the committee favor natives. It is import to vary tree species in case of disease in the population.

Mr. Snyder asked for clarification on the question. Is it a question of how to preserve what is there or is it how to restore it after building?

Mr. Bingler said it seems like 30% of trees die after replanting. He suggested moving the current established trees rather than planting new ones.

Mrs. Mason suggested Mr. Bingler attend the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting to ask the question then as the Grasso project is on the agenda.

There are currently Red Cedar trees along Rogers Road and it there was a discussion about moving them as they are very nice. However, moving trees can be expensive so there would most likely be a cap on the number to be moved. The species should be evaluated to determine whether or not they are native

or nursery trees to determine if it is worth it to move them as their root systems behave differently. Another concern Mr. Bingler raised is the buffer along Rogers Road. He expressed that the developers do not want to plant a buffer. At the moment, the buffer is mostly Cedar trees and the question is if we can save the buffer and some of the fully grown trees.

Mrs. Mitchell brought up that tree roots will intertwine with one another. It may be very difficult to move the trees. Is there a potential for protecting them instead?

Mr. Bingler said one of the trees, a sycamore will be protected. It was explained this tree came to be protected because it was brought up in a meeting. The staking of the tree came into question and it was suggested that Boucher and James go and stake the tree themselves to ensure that is done correctly. It was decided that when the plans come up in an EAC meeting, to keep very close eye on them. Mrs. Mason suggested Judy Goldstein come in to discuss with the EAC what she looks for when she is looking at plans.

Radon Testing-

The DEP informed Doylestown Township that radon was prevalent in the area. Several townships were being discovered with high levels of radon in residents' homes. Due to this, if funding is available, there is a letter they drafted that contains a coupon for a free radon test kit. If a resident returns the coupon, they would receive the test kit and test their home. The township would be responsible for providing the DEP with the list of addresses of homes in the township.

There was concern about the state forcing homeowners to fix the radon issue if there was once discovered. The way the letter is phrased, it does not have a clause that the test results would have to be returned to the DEP. However, it was decided that the e-mail would be circulated for committee review and a decision would be met at the next meeting. It may be more palatable to write a public announcement type article in the newsletter.

Old Business

Community Gardens-

Mrs. Milligan gave a presentation regarding community gardens. The presentation focused on preliminary research of how to start a community garden. Two different townships were cited with specific information on each being presented.

The area that would be used for this project is located on Lower State Road and is currently an alfalfa plot. The steps to implementation would be a planning committee, determination of viability (type of garden/soil quality etc), creation of laws and guidelines, seeking sponsorship.

It was discussed that a survey would be appropriate to gauge the interest of the residents in regards to the project. Possibilities for this would be to use the Survey Monkey Program, google group message, newsletter, website and Board of Supervisors meetings. The biggest concern in regards to the project at the moment is a parking area. Water is located across the street.

It was discussed to open the option to Doylestown Borough as well.

Before the steps to implementation, it is imperative to gather data about the need for an area like this and establishing criteria for its use. The first step will be to determine how many plots are intended to be in an area and then conduct a survey to see if needs match expectations. The project would have to go to the Board after preliminary research is done.

Warrington Township-

The Warrington EAC will be extending our trail of blue bird boxes through their township. It is good PR for our blue bird program and it is now clear that multiple townships are interested in this initiative.

Pine Run Reservoir, Commissioners' letter-

A letter was sent to the commissioners in hopes to have the mowing at Pine Run Reservoir halted in favor of meadow restoration. In their response, the commissioners said that they would do what they were going to do. They stated they may compromise in 2016. The next step is to meet with the commissioners but to hold off until the spring when Jerry Anderson's replacement takes charge. It was discussed that a best management practice statement should be requested.

Reorganization-

Mr. Richardson nominated Ray as chairperson of the council. Mr. Brooks seconded nomination. Vote carried unanimously. Information will be sent to reorganization meeting in January.

Other

The next meeting of this committee will be held December 8th 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 8:230pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield
Special Projects Coordinator