

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
April 10th, 2017

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Sean Sablosky, Chairman; Dr. Jim Baldassarre; Don Richardson, Vice Chairman; Anne Woodbury; Martin Brooks; Others: Autumn Canfield, Special Projects Coordinator; Dave Tomko, Director of Operations; Karen Sweeney, Director of Parks and Recreation; Denise Sezack, guest

Minutes Approval – 2/14/17

Ms. Woodbury brought up a correction regarding the riparian mailing letter. She drafted the letter and Ms. Mitchell contributed. With this correction, Mr. Brooks motioned to approve the minutes from February 14th. Mr. Richardson seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Plan Reviews

Quinlan Plan-

Plan located on New Britain Rd, 8 lot development in a cul-de-sac. The open space should be left with trees. The EAC recommends a native Viburnum rather than the Koreanspice Viburnum. The size of the plants should be 2.5-3”.

Doylestown Hospital Plan-

The EAC approved of the plant selection for this plan.

Callan Plan-

The EAC recommends saving the existing trees on the property.

Metro Storage-

This plan was previously reviewed and the recommendations made by the EAC were accommodated.

New Business

QR Code-

Ms. Sweeney discussed QR codes and their potential usage in the parks system. When placing informational signage in the meadow, the generational disconnect with nature was discussed. The challenge is to convey information in a way people can actual read and understand. This can be done in the form of QR code trails that operate in the way people speak and communicate today and in a way that is enjoyable to them. A QR code is a square barcode that links to information. There can be a map with a legend of the location of the codes throughout the park. Smart phones can have QR scanners that read the code and directs the user to a website with information.

Mr. Sablosky asked if there were studies on the usage of the QR codes. He had seen something similar on a trip but didn't think anything of them. Is there a way to track the “clicks”?

Ms. Sweeney indicated she hasn't seen specific studies. She believes it is happening more because the goal is to reach people that couldn't be reached before. Information needs to be disseminated to people they way they want to receive it. Instead of a QR code trail it could be called a smart trail.

Dr. Baldassarre asked if it would be a new installation in the park.

Ms. Sweeney indicated it would be. It would get people moving and learning.

Mr. Sablosky suggested that other signs could be retrofitted with the codes.

Ms. Sweeney discussed the potential of quizzes or t-shirt contests attached to the trail.

It was discussed that the project could be in phases. A few could be installed and information could be gathered to determine usage and from there decide whether or not to install more. Other options for code links could be to surveys or challenges.

Ms. Woodbury discussed the Park and Recreation Board and the Environmental Advisory Council working together on the project.

Ms. Sweeney will do some more research and put together potential pricing of the project.

Memorial Trees-

Ms. Sweeney discussed the memorial tree program at Doylestown Township. For years, the Township has offered residents the opportunity to purchase a tree as a memorial tree. The program does not have details solidified. Ms. Sweeney would like to put a flyer together with all of the options residents can purchase for memorial items. She requested the EAC give recommendations of a few trees that would be good to offer and an appropriate size to plant. She would also like an estimated price of what the planting package would cost so she knows what to charge for the memorial tree. Mr. Brooks will work on a list and the potential pricing.

Arbor Day-

The original site for planned for an Arbor Day planting was in a PennDOT right of way. PennDOT did not approve of the location. Due to this, Arbor Day will be celebrated with an educational session on how to plant trees, the importance of trees and Arbor Day history. Ms. Canfield and Mr. Tomko are coordinating with Kutz Elementary school to hold a small observance in Central Park to celebrate Arbor Day on April 28th.

Conservation meeting-

Ms. Woodbury discussed the Bucks County Conservation District meeting she attended. Ms. Rogalus gave a presentation regarding the Watershed Stewardship Program. The deadline to apply was April 1st. The class that previously went through is hoping to gain full status in Watershed Management and is looking for projects. If interested, the Township can contact Kathy Salisbury at the Penn State Extension. The program participants are interested in various water conservation projects including riparian corridor plantings. Mr. Tomko and Ms. Canfield will look into possible projects but a challenge will be the funding that is not provided by the program.

Record Tree-

Mr. Brooks and Mr. Richardson investigated 3 trees for the record tree program based on owner request.

The Flowering Cherry Tree is historic but is covered in vines. Mr. Richardson says it is a record tree and Mr. Brooks agrees it is old but does not believe it is being taken care of. Overall, the status of the tree

was determined to be a record tree. Ms. Canfield will make the appropriate certificate for the owner, recognizing the tree.

The Ash tree investigated was also determined to be a record tree. While Emerald Ash Borers are a concern, the tree did not have evidence of infestation. It is a large specimen and should be considered a record tree. Ms. Canfield will make the appropriate certificate for the owner, recognizing the tree.

The last tree investigated was a Sycamore, but was not considered to be a record tree. There are many others in the Township that are more impressive specimens.

Dog Leash Signs-

An e-mail was forwarded to the EAC regarding dog leash signs. Mr. Tomko is handling the situation as it is a maintenance issue. More signs can be placed regarding leashing dogs and requirements.

Informational-

The EAC received a letter regarding native plant efforts in the Township. Ms. Canfield included the letter as well as the response for the committee's review. This included information on the EAC and Park and Recreation Board and their meeting times as well as contact information for any questions.

Information regarding storage tank clean up and well tests were received and distributed to the committee to keep them up to date on environmental issues in the Township.

A call for Newsletter articles was included in the information for the committee. While the due date was April 10th, the date of the meeting, an extension can be provided if the committee would like to submit an article. Based on the minutes from February, it was suggested that an article about reforestation plans could be written. This would include information about what triggers the need for a permit when removing trees from a property. Mr. Sablosky will work on this with Mr. Tomko and Ms. Canfield.

Bucks Beautiful Discussion-

Denise Sezack from Bucks Beautiful attended the meeting to discuss potential partnership with the EAC. The group is attempting to help local organizations in their efforts for beautification through native plants and education. As an aside, they have seen mixed results with QR codes. Ms. Sezack discussed an area of Central Park where she believes a project is possible. A stone on the way down to Kids Castle could be the focal point. It was requested that Bucks Beautiful put together a plan to present to the Park and Recreation Board. Ms. Sezack indicated that Bucks Beautiful may be able to get involved in other areas as well such as potentially partnering in the speaker series. Ms. Woodbury indicated she would like to work with Ms. Sezack on the potential projects. Bucks Beautiful has an app for the gardening community. If interested, the QR code project can be incorporated into the app and displayed as a daffodil which signifies areas of interest.

Old Business

PAR Recycling Works-

At the previous meeting of the EAC, an electronic recycling event was discussed for the Township through the 501c3, PAR Recycling Works. Ms. Canfield provided dates the company is available to hold events at the Township. The Council decided to plan an event for June 3rd. Ms. Canfield will reach out to coordinate the event. It will be advertised through social media, the newsletter, website, TV channel and announcements at the Board of Supervisors meetings.

Magnet Fundraiser -

Ten magnets were sold at the Township building so far. Mr. Sablosky sold one elsewhere and Mr. Brooks purchased one at the meeting. Continued efforts to advertise and sell the magnets will take place.

Riparian Corridor Mailing-

Two property owners were already in contact with Mr. Tomko regarding riparian corridors. Site visits were done at the properties to make suggestions to owners about appropriate ways to keep the corridor healthy. Another response was received from a resident thanking the committee for their mailing and taking positive action.

Fall Speaker Series Event-

Ms. Woodbury would like to change the name of the Fall Speaker Series Event to the Annual Fall Speaker as it better represents the event. While Ms. Mitchell was absent, she had previously expressed interest in having a speaker to talk about children and nature. One speaker in particular charged \$15,000 and is out of price range for the committee. Other speakers may be in the area of \$5,000. This is still a high price for the committee. There is interest in partnering with Bucks County Conservation District as well as Bucks Beautiful to have the presentation. Mr. Sablosky will reach out to the Academy of Natural Sciences and discuss with them if they have speakers available. Dr. Baldassarre will reach out to the Delaware Riverkeepers to inquire about the cost of one of their speakers.

EAC Summit -

The EAC Summit is typically held in June. Due to the construction on the building it was believed that venue would be a problem this year. Ms. Canfield asked if another EAC would be willing to plan and host the event but they were not. Mr. Tomko indicated that based on the date, the main meeting room may be available. It was decided that the main meeting room would be booked from 7-9pm on June 27th to hold the EAC Summit. The traditional snacks will be provided. Ms. Woodbury suggested having one speaker rather than two and to focus more on the interaction between the EACs and talking about the projects going on. Speakers will be sought for the event.

Mr. Sablosky distributed books from a recent trip to Mohunk Mountain House and discussed the environmental sustainability practices at the hotel.

Other

The next meeting of this committee will be held May 9th 2017.

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm by motion of Mr. Sablosky, seconded by Dr. Baldassarre. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield