

DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP EAC MEETING MINUTES 6/14/2022

In attendance:

- J. Baldassarre
- J. Mitchell
- E. Neal
- C. Clem
- C. Sawyer

Introductions for new Asst TWP Manager and summer intern

- Stacey Crandell (Asst TWP Manager)
- Lauren Hahn (intern)
- Chris Smirga guest
- Linda Toomey guest

Guests: Linda Toomey and Chris Smirga (Township residents - corner of Turk and Pebble Hill)

- Wooded lot with a lot of dead ash trees and a few that are not in good health
- Drainage on Turk and Pebble Hill feeds into their front yard and need help from the Township
- Stephanie will work with the homeowners to bring township personnel to their property to start the evaluation process and help guide them through the process
- Homeowners also requested advice from the EAC on native plants & landscaping advice (Chad & Marcello to follow-up)

2) Minutes review and approval for May

- Approved

3) Budget review and budget items

- We are still waiting for invoice (\$250) from DelVal talk on Organic Land care
- Jeannine spent \$450 at Kind Earth Growers on plants (may still spend remaining up to \$750)
- \$250 remaining
 - Chad to order plants from North Creek Nursery using the remaining amount
 - Chad to work with Stephanie to ensure they are set up as a vendor with the TWP

4) New Business

a) Annual Summit?

- Usually executed in June but the last one was done in October due to Covid
- Heidi recommended we continue to do in early/mid October b/c we need time to plan - team agreed
 - Recommended to have several topics on the agenda
 - Watershed Stewards
 - Single Use Plastics
 - Renewable Energy
 - Bucks/Mont Regional EAC Summit
 - Township has been hosting for several years
 - Discussion of other EACs hosting - but the group agreed that Township has been doing it and we have very nice facility, and we are viewed as a leader in the region in this space

- Round Table was suggested to have the other EACs do some of the work and allocate assignments
- Discussion of doing multiple summits per year, but the group suggested that may be too much to take on at this time

5) Ongoing Business and Subcommittees

a) Butler Pike Native Plan median meadow

- Erich and Jim walked the medians since the last meeting
- Only dealing with the medians by spraying but they were recently mowed (likely by PennDot who owns them)
- Stephanie/Township will be meeting with PennDot on July 8
- Jeff Schumacher will come to the next EAC meeting to weigh in on the median remediation
- Stephanie mentioned that they evaluated the Borough median plantings but they are so much smaller than these areas it is tough to compare

b) Table Events and scheduling

- The first event went well - we have 3 more scheduled
 - July 13 - Watershed will be the main topic of the next tabling event
 - Lauren put together an informative poster for the event and the Township will laminate and put on fiberboard
 - Jim will follow-up with Jane Neal for the Master Watershed Steward posters and info
 - Volunteers should arrive for the tabling events about 6:00 PM (concert starts at 7 PM)
 - Jeannine said the EAC was introduced as the wrong group last year
 - Final two tabling events will be in August
 - Stephanie said the Township is now typing up this information to prevent this

c) Strategic Plan Final Review

- Curt will issue the plan as it currently stands with the feedback received to date but it will be a dynamic document

d) Single use plastic

- Heidi updated the group on the history of the initiative
 - Very positive response from many of the local businesses and feedback was that they would comply with any ordinance that was issued
 - Many of the businesses have already eliminated plastic bags
 - Larger businesses are already geared up to make the change
 - Lauren tabulated the survey feedback (12-14 responses)
 - Nothing was submitted through the mail
 - Lauren will need to check the Survey Monkey results
 - 46% of the businesses used plastic bags
 - Lauren will put together PP presentation with all the data
 - Next step is to write an article for the newsletter
 - Much discussion around recycling but the team recommended that is not the approach they want to take and EAC recommends focusing on REDUCING plastics

e) Bird Town

- Moved from a working group to a BOD
- Official partner with We Conserve PA
- Quarterly newsletter (Wing Beat) will begin this summer
- Had some great walks this spring with collaborations with other area Bird Towns

- Will come up with more collaborative events in Sept/Oct
- Nest watch is almost over
- West Nile Virus article written by Jane Neal in the next TWP newsletter
- Native Plant pop up garden for the fall
 - Heidi, Marcello, Jeannine & Chad will coordinate
- New signage was shared and it is larger than the old signs
 - Stephanie will need to follow-up to determine how they will be displayed (remove old signs or post new signs over the old)
 - Heidi will provide written info of what is needed for Bird Town signage and provide to Stephanie by Wed 6/15
 - Bird Town is applying for trademark of new logo

f) Ready for 100/Energy Transition Plan

- Jim has not heard anything from Local Climate Action Planning (Chris Nafe)
- Jim will follow-up again with Chris
- Jim will need to follow-up with the D-town Borough (George Mullikin)

i) Local Climate Action Planning

ii) Proposed alt-energy ordinance

- Jim to follow-up with Judy Hendrickson - still with Co. Planning Committee
- Jim proposed doing an inventory of the Township fleet - possibly for Lauren
 - Gathering the data on the current fleet
 - Running analysis
 - Stephanie said she supported doing the inventory and analysis
 - All state vehicles MUST be purchased through this existing program (Co-Stars) and current inventory is incredibly low and backlogged

g) Watershed Friendly Township Properties

- Environmental Education Center passed for first Township Approved property
- Group suggested that it be mounted to the display box b/c someone may take it
- Another property could be a basin on Ash Rd (near Heidi) - but it requires quite a bit of work
 - Jeannine offered to do an evaluation of the area first and then engage local neighbors and Master Watershed stewards to help remediate the space
 - Signage for the areas under remediation should be posted
- What is another site that is lower hanging fruit
- Jeannine will send out list of 18 township-owned lots that we could assess for certification to the EAC

h) Native Plant Garden progress

- 11 volunteers at the last garden clean up
- Garden is in pretty good shape
- Keeping the paths clear is a big focus
- Plants installed from Kind Earth
- Chad to follow-up with North Creek with Jeannine's list
- Jeannine will follow-up with Dave Horn for donations of Carolina Allspice
- Volunteer last Saturday of the month 9-11

i) Pond Rehab progress

- Erich and Jane Neal work on it every Wednesday (now to be every Thursday) - progress is very evident

- Stephanie found the original design from the pond and shared with Jane Neal
- Jane working with the Township to put the boat in the water to cut the phragmites

j) Native American Memorial

- Chad & Marcello confirmed Bucks Beautiful will provide plants
 - Chad needs to complete plant grant form
 - Planting slated for Fall '22
 - Chad to f/u with Anne to determine significance of Belgian block arrow
- |
- EAC has a vacancy - Heidi Bortner. is not able to participate in the EAC
 - Township will need to post
 - Stacey will be working on the Fall Newsletter and would like to get all information by August 1

Next Meeting July 12 at 6:30 pm