

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**July 8, 2014**

**In Attendance:** Ray Hendrick; Chairman, Don Richardson, Vice Chairman; Jeannine Mitchell, Marty Brooks, Colin Cameron, Richard John, Butch Froehlich, Rick Colello Ken Snyder, Board of Supervisors Liaison; and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager

**Minutes**

Approval from June 10, 2014, on motion of Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Brooks motion carried with a correction on page 2, under Riparian Buffer, delete – “as she is a member of Backyard Stewardship.....”. Motion carried unanimously.

**Environmental Advisory Council Member Appointment**

Mr. Hendrick introduced Colin Cameron, newest member of the Environmental Advisory Council appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

**Thompson Lexus**

These are amended Final Plans. The EAC reviewed the plans and had no comments. Mr. Hendrick asked that a memo to the Planning Commission be completed indicating that they had no comments on the landscape plan at this time.

**Nesting Bird Signs – Central Park – Kiosk Information**

Mr. Hendrick reported that the Board of Supervisors authorized two (2) information kiosks be created regarding Harts Woods. Ms. Mason indicated she is working with Ms. Goldstein on the sign. He would like to review the draft before they go to be made into signs. Ms. Mason indicated that she would share them with them when they are prepared.

Mr. Hendrick also indicated that the protection that is taking place at the present time is important because two (2) male wood thrush and one (1) male oven bird have been singing in the territory in the woodlands.

There is a recommendation that the EAC believes that the sign in the Environmental Education Area should also be considered for replacement in 2015 Budget.

**DTV Programming**

New programing ideas – the Eagle Cam, Mr. Hendrick shared the article on it. There is potential for a link to the DTV.

**Mowing**

Director of Operation Richard John and Mr. Froehlich, Park Superintendent, were present and Mr. Hendrick thanked them for coming to the meeting and providing them with information, logistics, contract information, and perhaps a way to cut down on the amount of mowing that takes place in and around the parks.

Focusing on Central Park and the trail system around it, although there are other areas and parks that the Township maintains focusing on this area first would probably be the best.

There was a lively discussion regarding the amount of mowing, the need for the mowing. Concerns from the homeowners that about the open space and the need for mowing, but Mr. Froehlich indicated that he meets with all the contractor and they follow the lines that have been established. After further discussion, Mr. John indicated that he would be happy to work with the EAC in developing a new game plan for reducing the amount of mowing.

Mr. Brooks felt that it would probably be minimal but Ms. Mitchell suggested that the committee members meet and walk the area and stake the area and make a ribbon line where the mowing should be reduced. This could certainly be very helpful.

Mr. John indicated that they would be happy to do that and of course the EAC needs to recognize the balancing act that the Township has regarding safety for its residents the like. But the consensus was to create a Phase 1 with Central Park, Neamand Trail and working to create a meadow effect and expand outward and begin to raise awareness on invasive species and decreased mowing. This would be public goal on raising the consciousness of residents.

Mr. John indicated that Mr. Froehlich and staff would be happy to be cooperative with the EAC.

Ms. Mitchell commented that staff is very cooperative and very helpful especially with the native garden.

#### **Demonstration Garden Status Report**

Ms. Mitchell reported that the staff has been very helpful in providing the necessary mulch to the site and they have been working to keep the plants alive by watering them. She indicated that she's been watering a lot of plants and has success with some of the plants but not all. She said that the Jack in the Pulpit and ferns looked good. The Arrow Wood is good as well as the Gray Dogwood and Elderberry. She also said that Jacobs Ladder and Sedum and the Twinning Honeysuckle were looking good. She also indicated that one of the redbuds had died and some of the other plants will need watering and weeding going forward. She said she had contacted the Central Bucks School District, Community Services and was looking for volunteers. In the fall she will contact the counselors. She is also reaching out to the Boy Scouts of America, Doylestown Office, in hopes that an Eagle Scout may want to take on the watering and perhaps even create a stone path in the area. She indicated that the Township has some stones to create a stepping stone path about 30 feet long. She also indicated when asked that this is a 3-year project.

Mr. Hendrick indicated a volunteer letter to Steve Dylinski was provided and he is going to some local nurseries looking for donations of plant material. There was a question as to whether or not the Township had a water tank that could be provided or perhaps a water line to help the Native Garden. Ms. Mason indicated she would check with Mr. John.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie J. Mason

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