

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Notes by Sam Bryant**  
**September 9, 2014**

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**Attendance:** Donald Richardson, Rick Collelo, Sean Sablosky, Ray Hendrick, Jeannine Mitchell, Ken Snyder, Sam Bryant

**Minutes Approval**

Jeanine requested "granite" changed to "blue stone".

Moved by Mr. Richardson, Seconded by Mr. Sablosky, unanimous approval of minutes with aforementioned change.

**Hart's Signage and Other Kiosk Signage Review**

Hart's will be easier to change, as it is a new sign, so no additional cost will be incurred.

Jeanine explained changes marked on sheet and emphasized that its' is not appropriately used. Ray mentioned that the current members of the EAC were not involved in the creation of the current kiosk signs, and that changes should only be made if necessary to prevent undue and exorbitant costs.

For the Central Park Birds Kiosk, it was agreed that birds should reflect those actually found in the park. Ray agreed to do the informational summary of each bird, if the EAC agrees to change them.

For the invasive plants sign, it should be left alone, if we are only going to add a few plants. However, the EAC asked Sam to propose an ordinance change to update the noxious plant list with the additional ones suggested for the kiosk sign.

On the butterfly sign, butterfly bush is now considered an invasive species, so it should be replaced with milkweed. Jeannine and Ray emphasized the benefits of milkweed, and both agreed that milkweed will be planted in demonstration garden.

The other signs were acceptable in their current state.

Sam informed the EAC that Judy and Val were made aware of the proposed changes, and will call Ray and email everyone else once there is a suggested price.

**Native Demo Plant Garden Plant Donation**

Ray passed out pictures of rain garden in north wales, to show the types of plants to be donated. Most notably, this included Joe Pye Weed, Cardinal Flower, Bonset, and Turtle Head (all native wildflowers).

Ray has some of them now in pots in his garden, which will overwinter, and then plant them in

the spring of 2015. Jeannine agreed, as the EAC should wait for the completion of the Eagle Scout pathway before doing further planting in that area. He is not here tonight, but will be at the October meeting.

Bill Lloyd's wife will plant flowering dogwood tree in this area, and has a meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Ray asked Jeannine to pick a spot and put a stake/marker, so Ray will know where to plant the tree.

### **TreeVitalize Grant Update**

Jeannine attended a talk from an arborist that discussed infections in pin oak. For this reason, Jeannine wants to replace pin oak with tupelo.

Sam provided an overview of grant requirements and process that led to the creation of the document. It has to be 80% trees, and the average cost cannot exceed \$25 per plant. The Township will need to provide a 25% in kind match through labor to plant the trees. Sam has already contacted Public Works about this possibility and has started thinking about volunteer groups. This project could be done as part of our Arbor Day Program in 2015.

Jeannine also suggested PECO could provide volunteers.

Rick suggested that Sam could provide schematic of the areas for Jeannine to mark, so everyone knows where the plants will go prior to planting.

There was then a motion to submit the grant application, with the change of tupelo in place of pin oak. This was moved by Jeannine, seconded by Sean, unanimously approved.

### **2015 Budget Update**

Sam submitted the draft budget discussed at the previous meeting.

Notably, there was a \$2000 line item placeholder for a recycling dumpster. Sam contacted Allied who stated a cost of \$100 per ton and \$375 per truck trip for tires, no cost for dumpster itself. However, Allied gave some warnings about items such as tires, televisions, etc.

Ken mentioned that waste management said they can handle televisions.

Suggested recycling dumpster items were electronics, tires, household hazardous waste (paint, oil, etc.). Sean suggested a setup in Monroe County that provides this service. He also mentioned we could advertise in newsletter about this service.

As the county provides electronics recycling periodically, check with them about what they do/pay with hazardous waste cost. It would also be good to solicit bids from other haulers.

Jeannine requested additional money for a faucet for native demo plant garden; she wants to run pipe from faucet to bird line. Sean and Rick mentioned that as the faucet is turned off during the winter, there is no need to winterize this pipe. We could investigate the most cost effective solution to do this.

### **Autumn Birdwalk**

It will be held September 20<sup>th</sup>. Ray is not sure of current attendance, but there was a big attendance at his last bird walk in Peace Valley last week.

### **Summary of Bluebird Nestbox Program**

Ray had an excellent day with Public Works and specifically Rick who spent several hours up 202 and 611 going around helping out with the bird boxes. Without help Ray would still be working on this project. Public Works never turn down a request and are very helpful to Ray. Ray is very appreciative of what the Township provides for the EAC and the support of the Board of Supervisors.

34 boxes in all were cleaned out. This included 6 screech owl boxes at hart's woods. 31 boxes out of 34 were occupied and they found 5 different species of birds. Ray can tell what nested before based upon nesting materials used

All boxes are done and ready for 2015 nesting season.

Ray provided a spreadsheet of where the bluebird boxes are located. There was talk of adding GPS and GIS to these locations, so they can be found if Ray is not available to ask.

Ray inquired about if the kiosk built for 202 parkway was completed, as Ray wants to put notice about bluebirds here.

Ken asked if bat boxes require maintenance. Ray stated he has never seen bats in them. Donald mentioned that disease has harmed many bats in this area. Ken asked if we can rebuild bat population through relocation. Donald wasn't sure, but knew that Durham has spent time and energy on bats, and may have an answer.

Next meeting is October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

Sean motioned to adjourn, Donald seconded, unanimous approval by the EAC.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.