

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Sam Bryant
May 12th, 2015

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Don Richardson (Vice Chairman), Martin Brooks, Dr. Tanya Casas, Colin Cameron, Jeannine Mitchell; Supervisors: Ken Snyder (Liaison), Rick Colello; Township Staff: Stephanie J. Mason (Township Manager), Sam Bryant (Special Projects Coordinator), Autumn Canfield (Intern);

Meeting began at 6:59pm

Mr. Richardson led this meeting, as Mr. Hendrick was not present.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Cameron stated he was present at the previous meeting but his name was not on the minutes. Mr. Bryant apologized and agreed.

Motion to approve the minutes with the change by Mrs.; seconded by Mr. Brooks; unanimous approval.

Plan Review

There were no plans to review.

EAC Summit

Mr. Bryant gave a final update on the 2015 EAC Summit. It will be Thursday, June 4th at 7PM at the Township Activity Center. The speakers have been set, and invitations sent out to the other EACs in the area. So far, 9 EACs have agreed to attend, with a total of about 12 people. Mr. Bryant and Ms. Canfield will do more follow up to get a higher attendance. Doylestown Borough is aware they will need to help pay for refreshments. It was suggested that the seating be arranged so that the EACs sit so that members are spread out and mixed up at tables, in order to encourage mingling amongst the EACs.

BCCD Award

The award ceremony mentioned at the previous meeting will not occur until July.

Historic Tree

Mr. Hendrick has completed the display of the 300 year old tree stump, which can be found in the Public Meeting Room. He presented it to the Board of Supervisors at their last meeting.

Mr. Brooks asked about receiving the information on the historic tree list. Mr. Richardson provided this material to Mr. Brooks. Mr. Brooks agreed to be the main EAC contact for any matters pertaining to historic trees.

Arbor Day 2015

Mr. Bryant reported that the TreeVitalize planting at the Environmental Education Area for Arbor Day was a big success, and thanked everyone for their assistance. The planting passed inspection from the funder the week prior and the reimbursement paperwork has been submitted. Ms. Mitchell thanked the Public Works staff, Chris Mason and David Morasco, for their help.

Mr. Bryant said that the EAC could still plant at Bridge Point Park with TreeVitalize funds, as long as the required paperwork is turned in by the end of November. Ms. Mitchell suggested getting volunteers for

a Saturday in September to do this. Mr. Brooks suggested getting anchors for the plants there, so that flooding does not harm them. Ms. Mason, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Brooks, and Ms. Canfield will meet at Bridge Point Park one day to view the area and plan out a planting area.

Native Demonstration Garden

Ms. Mitchell reported there was a cleanup day, but further work is halted until the Eagle Scout decorative path is completed. She has some concerns about the speed of that project, but has the scout committed to completing the project by Memorial Day. Assuming the path is completed by Memorial Day; Ms. Mitchell is looking for plants and volunteers to do further work in either the first or second weekend of June.

Mr. Snyder asked that a member of the Parks staff check on the progress and quality of path construction while doing normal rounds in Central Park. Mr. Brooks said he would also take a look at it.

Ms. Mitchell discussed with Chris Mason connecting a hose to the water supply by the water fountain in the area. She will need to acquire a quality hose, a reel, a cart and a nozzle for it. Mr. Brooks suggested a place to obtain these items, and would go with Ms. Mitchell to find the needed items the same day as viewing Bridge Point Park and the Eagle Scout path.

Electronics Recycling

Mr. Sablosky was not present to provide information from Mr. Tom Hough.

Ms. Mason explained the details of the current state electronics recycling law to the EAC.

The EAC agreed this is likely an issue that should be solved by the private sector, absent any change to state law, as many locations will accept electronics.

The next EAC article in the newsletter should explain to residents how to dispose of electronics, and could be written by Mr. Sablosky.

Leaf and Yard Waste Program

Mr. Bryant explained that the current equipment used for the Township Leaf and Yard Waste Recycling program had reached the end of its life expectancy. The Township was considering either investing in new equipment or working with private vendors to continue this program, as it is mandated by the state.

Mr. Brooks stated in a worst case scenario, the materials could be collected, and then allow them to naturally decay. Mr. Brooks also stated that Abington Township has a program where residents can use the material. Ms. Mitchell agreed that the material should not be given to companies if residents could use it. Dr. Casas suggested improved information on the Township website to encourage residents to use this material, instead of chemical fertilizers.

Mr. Richardson stated that if the EAC wanted to encourage residents to use the material, the Township would need to look into getting appropriate machinery. It was suggested that the Township apply for a 902 Grant, which would pay 90 percent of the cost of this equipment. The Township could reach out to partnering organizations to help with the remaining ten percent.

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