

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
June 9th, 2015

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Raymond Hendrick (Chairman), Don Richardson (Vice Chairman), Martin Brooks, Dr. Tanya Casas, Jeannine Mitchell, Sean Sablosky; Supervisors: Ken Snyder (Liaison); Township Staff: Stephanie J. Mason (Township Manager), Autumn Canfield (Intern); Guest Attendance: Josh Morell, of Solar City and Davis Buttala (Eagle Scout)

Meeting began at 7:00pm
Mr. Hendrick called meeting to order

Solar City

Mr. Hendrick allowed Mr. Josh Morell to speak about his company. Mr. Morell only wished to drop off some paper work but gladly stayed to briefly discuss his company. Solar City is an energy company which uses Power Purchase Agreements and Ambassador Programs. The company owns the solar panels, but provides residents with another option for energy besides PECO. They purchase the energy through Solar City without having to invest in purchasing expensive panels. Essentially, Solar City would like to put an informative article in our Doylestown Newsletter and any other literature possible. If someone switches to their company and says that they learned about the program through our literature, we are rewarded \$250 each time. They are not looking for an endorsement, just for the Township to promote their company. Solar City currently works with Warrington and Abington amongst others. Mr. Hendrick requested a copy of what the article would look like as well as literature on the company for further review. Mr. Sablosky pointed out that there are other companies who function the same way and that we may want to look into all of our options regarding the matter.

Minutes Approval

Ms. Mitchell moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2015, Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Review

There were no plans to review.

Arbor Day

Mrs. Jeannine Mitchell spoke about the recent Arbor Day event. Township workers used an auger to dig the holes to make planting easier. A CB West student read the proclamation. All of the trees were planted as we had a great volunteer attendance. Mr. Hendrick had recently seen the project and said that it looked great. All trees were planted in the general vicinity of the Environmental Education Center.

Native Demonstration Garden

Ms. Mitchell said that Davis Buttala, the Eagle Scout did a very nice job on the path through the Native Demonstration Garden. It was stated that not all EAC members have seen the path yet. It was suggested that there should be a walk to the garden so everyone could see the path. Mr. Buttala only needs Ms. Mitchell's signature to for the project to be considered complete for BSA, which she happily provided.

The next planting for the Native Demonstration Garden was set for Saturday, June 20th starting at 9am and ending around 12pm.

This planting is designated for the potted plants that must go in the soil. Mr. Brooks pointed out that the planting would be at the wrong time of year for the current plants we have. It was briefly discussed and determined that a mistimed planting would be better than the plants withering in the pots until next year.

Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brooks went to examine the native garden, purchase a hose and check on the Bridge Point Park planting location. (see notes on Bridge Point below). At Histands, the supply store, a reel and 150ft hose were purchased for \$385. Ms. Mitchell would like to use the money from Birdtown Award to pay for hose. The hose will be put in cold storage when not in use. With twenty four hour notice, the hose will be brought out and placed where necessary for watering the garden. The hose will be for EAC use only; signage will be made to distinguish as such. When the hose is being used, cones are to be placed to designate the area around it as to avoid injury. The planting on June 20th will be the inaugural use of the hose and reel.

Mr. Hendrick would like to have a dedication for the Native Demo Garden in the future. A date will be determined at a later meeting.

Bridge Point Planting

Ms. Mitchell began to discuss the fall Bridge Point Park planting. It was determined that the list of approved trees needs to be located so a plot plan of appropriate trees could be made. Mr. Martin discussed concerns of anchoring plants as water pressure is too high when it rains and floods. He suggested planting specific types of plants that could withstand the pressure. Ms. Canfield will locate the list of trees and we will then move forward with a date for a walk through of the park.

Electronic Recycling

Mr. Sablosky spoke with Tom Hough. According to Mr. Hough, the issue with electronic recycling has come about due to the progress of humans' rights in China. Previously, China was the market for electronics recycling where underpaid workers would sit in fields and disassemble the electronics that were brought in to repurpose/ resell/ etc. However, stricter human rights laws have heavily affected this business and it is no longer running. Mr. Hough has no answers as to what to do about the issue. Mr. Bryan and Ms. Mason were working on this topic before he left. It was determined that certain retailers would take back certain products, Staples/ Best Buy/ Etc. Ms. Mason will work with Mr. Sablosky on how to present this information in the newsletter as not to favor one company. According to Ms. Mason, in the Bucks County Managers meeting, the electronics recycling issue was a hot topic. Most townships are concerned with the consequences of no one taking these items. One major concern is illegal dumping of electronics. As stated above, certain stores will take them, but may only be required to take a certain number and therefore will be more willing to help a customer who is returning a TV while purchasing another, vs. someone who just wants to dispose of one. While many electronics are an issue in the recycling sector, TV's have been focused on due to their size. The companies who are taking the old models often have stringent guidelines based on size and quantity. When discussing working with these retailers, it was suggested that there be a vetting process to ensure equal opportunity for our residents whether they are just disposing of a product or if they become a customer as well.

Leaf and Yard Waste Recycling

It was discussed at the previous meeting that the current chipper machine is coming to the end of its life cycle. Parts and maintenance are becoming difficult and costly. Applying for the 902 grant to cover the cost of a new chipper was determined the best outcome. Ms. Canfield contacted Anne Ryan, local DEP representative, who informed her that the grant round is not currently open and they are unaware when it will open. Ms. Ryan suggested calling back monthly to check on the status. Ms. Canfield will keep up on this matter as well as contacting Delaware Valley University to discuss partnership in the grant. Dr. Casas suggested contacting both Dr. Christopher Tipping and Arthur Glass. Ms. Canfield agreed.

EAC Summit

Mr. Hendrick was very impressed with the attendance at this year's summit. 25 individuals attended the meeting. The presenters were very interesting and shared a variety of valuable information. After the presentation, there was a successful networking session. Many attendees thanked Mr. Hendrick after the Summit and expressed interest in attending Doylestown Township's EAC meetings and events. As always, Mr. Hendrick credited the staff at Doylestown Township for their hard work in making the Summit a possibility.

Central Park Meadow Restoration

There is milkweed in Central Park for the first time in many years. As the primary food source of Monarch Butterfly larva, it is a valuable part of the ecosystem. According to Mr. Hendrick, the path has been cut, but there was no damage to the Milkweed. He was informed that within a month the paths will be connected.

Mowing of the meadow was discussed and it was suggested that it would be mowed once a year as they do not want herbaceous plants moving into the area. There are many ground nesting bird species who have moved in.

Mr. Richardson asked if meadow expansion was a possibility.

Mr. Hendrick stated that at this point, he is happy that we have all the ecosystems we do. At this point, we have more edge than ever before and it was stated that leaving these places alone also means less maintenance.

Mr. Snyder expressed concern that Mr. Hendrick was not informed of the mowing before it occurred. It was stated at the Supervisors' meeting that before anything was to occur, Mr. Hendrick was to be notified. Mr. Hendrick stated that he was happy no damage was done and is therefore fine with this.

Ms. Mitchell requested a day to go see the paths to see what has been done and what we hope to have happen in the future. It was suggested this outing become the next EAC meeting.

Ms. Mason informed council members that they have to convene at the township building and then can continue to the meadow after. It was decided that the EAC members will meet at 7pm to convene the meeting on July 14th and then go to see the meadow. The items on the agenda for July will be moved to the agenda for August as the walk will take a majority if not all of the meeting time.

BCCD Award

The award ceremony will take place July 15th, 2015 at Core Creek Park at 6:00pm. It was determined that carpooling was the best option. Mrs. Mason will ask if we can borrow a van from Delaware Valley University for everyone. The council will meet at the township and leave from there to arrive at Pavilion 11. A final plan with specifics will be e-mailed to the members of the council.

Bird Town

Ms. Mitchell discussed PA Audubon at home. The EAC should be filling out reports for each related events for our 2015 year. At the moment, the township does not have any of these forms but Ms. Mitchell will bring a copy and Ms. Canfield will save it to the township system. She will also bring in copies for the EAC members for the events they host as well.

Ms. Mason asked if we have an inventory of where bird boxes were placed. According to Mr. Hendrick, he had worked on it with Ms. Sandra Zadell. However, it has not been updated. Mr. Hendrick will work with Mrs. Canfield to update this map.

Mr. Hendrick stated that for construction of the bird boxes, he would like cedar or pine. A sturdy wood is needed and it cannot just be any old wood left around and damaged.

Ms. Mitchell led a bird walk for Kutz Elementary students including two separate groups of fifty students each. On the Monday walk, they were able to identify nine different species of birds and on Tuesday, they were able to identify ten different species. Ms. Mitchell is now known as the "Bird Lady". These students were the first to walk on the path built in the garden.

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Committee

Mr. Sablosky provided update as liaison for PWSAC. During the meeting there was a debate about the concept of how septic systems functioned. Mr. Sablosky felt the Committee did not fully understand. He said that properly functioning septic systems are easier and more economic due to their natural cleaning of water. Sewer systems use a lot of energy due to their intensive processes of cleaning. Mr. Sablosky provided handouts of the highlights of the meetings he has attended. His fear is that the map presented is deceptive as the key lists "septic issues" when these issues were resolved by permits for maintenance and installation. Mr. Sablosky feels it is an unfair gauge a problem when they are being fixed.

Mr. Sablosky would like the EAC to take the stand that septic systems pose less environmental impact and that they provide the best water retention as it comes from the closest source. Mr. Richardson said that there needs to be quantification based on the quality of the soil where the septic system is placed. Mr. Sablosky suggests more education for the maintenance of septic systems to keep them healthy. Ms. Mitchell would like to take it a step further and debunk the bad reputation that septic tanks receive by following up with repair and refurbishing information.

Mr. Sablosky suggests a map of health department issued permits vs. letters the township sends to its residents based on the pumper/hauler report filed. This would show residents who receive notice that their septic tank is having issues and follow through with correcting them.

Ms. Mason points out that a more worrisome part of the map is the points where well water issues are present. Based on the water reports sent in, it is known that there is fecal coliform contamination in certain areas potentially due to mal functioning septic systems and this is mapped as well.

Mr. Sablosky will continue to attend these meetings and report with any new information.

Upcoming Events

Native Plant Workshop:

Ms. Mitchell discussed her native plant workshop scheduled for September 25th at 6:30pm. Ms. Canfield will discuss with Ms. Finley to put the event in the program guide. Ms. Mitchell requested to use \$100 of bird town money to cover presenter costs. The event is to be geared toward property owners near water bodies. The EAC discussed ways to publicize and decided on the TV channel, the fall program guide, the website, and other forms of social media.

Fall Bird Walk:

Mr. Hendrick will be holding a bird walk on September 19th.

With no other news the meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield
Intern