

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
September 8th, 2015

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Raymond Hendrick (Chairman), Dr. Tanya Casas, Jeannine Mitchell, Don Richardson, Martin Brooks; Supervisors: Ken Snyder (Liaison); Autumn Canfield (Special Projects Coordinator)

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

Mr. Brooks requested to be called instead of e-mailed from now on.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Brooks moved to approve the minutes of August 11th, 2015, Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Plan Review

There were no plans to review.

New Business

Electronic recycling- It was announced that the county would be holding an electronic recycling day for residents. Information was sent to the township and shared with the EAC. Mr. Snyder asked why they were holding one but there was not a definitive answer.

Native Garden Brigade- Mrs. Mitchell explained that there would be a scheduled cleaning each month, on the last Saturday from 9am to 11am for the Native Plant Garden. The garden looked great after the last clean-up and it is the hope that monthly maintenance will keep it that way. The plants need to be watered and there was a discussion on how to do that. Mr. John had told the EAC that they could use the hose any time within business hours if they were to call ahead and let the township know they needed it. The township will bring the hose to the garden, the EAC will water the plants and the township will return the hose to cold storage. Mr. Hendrick and Mrs. Mitchell both agreed they would be willing to do this. Mr. Snyder was sure it could be done if given a day of notice.

Amphitheater- Before the meeting, Karen Sweeney approached Mrs. Canfield and asked her to pass a message on to the EAC. Mrs. Sweeney, the Director of Parks and Recreation for the township, inquired into the interest of the EAC in helping with landscaping at the new Covenant Bank Amphitheater. The idea was taken positively. Mr. Hendrick said he would speak with Mrs. Sweeney about plant choice and budget and Mrs. Mitchell suggested doing a planting on a Saturday so volunteers could be gathered.

Climate Change Action Plan- Dr. Casas brought up the possibility of creating a climate change action plan. She expresses that her research is in the preliminary phase and that she thought it would be of interest to the committee. She handed out state impact reports that express concern of a 5 degree increase in temperature by 2050. From what Dr. Casas had already read, she believes Doylestown Township is already doing a multitude of the actions mentioned in other plans. She suggested that those actions and planned actions be put together in a formal report. She also suggested including the

local food system into the report. Mr. Hendrick asked if Dr. Casas would like to head the initiative, and if she had ever read "Fruitless Falls". Mr. Hendrick also asked whether Dr. Casas was the lead at the college regarding the matter and if they were bringing it up in discussions. Dr. Casas indicated that it was being talked and taught about but she was not the lead. She said she would be able to send the framework on how to construct a food system. Mrs. Mitchell inquired about food systems and how to set up a community garden on the property by Delaware Valley University. Mr. Richardson said that there was talk using the land but there needs to be more discussion. A level of interest need to be established and a discussion of what it takes to create a garden and maintain it properly. Mr. Richardson is worried that due to larger parcel sizes in the township, there is not a need for community gardens as they can have one on their own property. In the borough, there is a need due to smaller housing spaces. Mr. Hendrick pointed out that Buckingham has community gardens and they are very comparable to Doylestown Township.

The main flow of events:

1. Determine level of interest
2. How garden would be managed?
3. Who is overall responsible?
4. Present idea to board

Warrington EAC- Mrs. Canfield e-mailed the Warrington EAC in regards to blue bird boxes she saw at their township building. Mr. Hendrick believed that they were for Warrington Day. Currently, our trail of blue bird boxes runs to Bristol Rd in Warrington Township. It was proposed that it there might be benefit to working with the Warrington EAC to further this trail into their township as well to County Line Rd. Mr. Hendrick volunteered to go to their meeting and give pointers as to how to proceed. We are awaiting response. It was discussed that if Warrington is selling the boxes, they should be sold with proper information on maintenance so the boxes are successful.

It was announced that resident Linda Pichet was kind enough to donate a bluebird box to the township.

Old Business

Bridge Point Planting-The group was reminded that the Bridge Point Park planting was is set for October 3rd between 9am and 12pm. The plants are ordered and the group will gather volunteers.

Treevitalize 2016-Mrs. Canfield reported that everything was in progress and would be ready to present to Board of Supervisors at their meeting.

Burpee Seed-Mr. Hendrick reported that he and Mrs. Canfield reach out to Burpee Seed Company for a donation of seed packets to be handed out at EAC functions such as Jeannine's workshop in September. The group agreed this was a good idea. At this point, we are still waiting to hear back from the company. Mr. Hendrick went to Fordhook who was giving the packets away. His goal is to obtain packets and hand them out at events in a focused way.

Meadow Issue- The letter to commissioners was handed out to all cc'ed. It was discussed that the 70 acre plot of land is important habitat for various species. It was said that the commissioners believe not mowing the area is a safety concern. Mr. Snyder suggested taking them on a walk around our meadows in Central Park to show them what we do here. Mrs. Mitchell said to invite the commissioners and to talk to Tom Price and then make the invitation to go for a walk.

Native plants- Mrs. Mitchell began a discussion about native plants and educating residents. She

believes they don't know enough about the topic. She wants to start talking about what people are doing on their properties when planting. There was a discussion about possibly partnering with the library in an attempt to get information about the importance of planting native plants. Mr. Snyder said he felt it was a good topic to discuss when Dr. Casas was present (who had to excuse herself from the meeting early) so she could provide insight into the best ways to get information out to people.

Other

Planting with a Purpose is being held September 25th in the activity center.

The next meeting of this committee will be held October 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield
Special Projects Coordinator