

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
January 12th, 2016

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Raymond Hendrick (Chairman), Dr. Tanya Casas, Jeannine Mitchell, Don Richardson, Martin Brooks, Anne Woodbury; Supervisors: Ken Snyder, Shawn Touhill (Liaison); Autumn Canfield (Special Projects Coordinator), Stephanie Mason (Manager), Kaci Milligan (Intern); residents: Cecile Balizet, John Kulak

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

Minutes Approval

Mr. Richardson motioned to approve the minutes, Dr. Casas second. Motion carried by all present.

Plan Review

Judy Stern Goldstein attended the meeting in order to help the committee identify objects to make recommendations on when reviewing plans. The committee reviews plans from an environmental standpoint.

Mr. Hendrick discussed a previous plan that was discussed where he felt the recommendations that were made had not been followed through on. A development on Old Dublin Pike was supposed to have bat boxes installed, however none had been put up yet. Mrs. Stern Goldstein clarified that the project had not been completed and that the bat boxes would not go in until the retention basin was completed.

Mrs. Stern Goldstein explained that she was previously a member of the EAC when they started reviewing plans. The plans are looked at by consultants and professionals to ensure compliance with ordinances. The EAC examines the environmental aspect. They look for things that should be preserved, determine if appropriate vegetation is going to be put in place and make other recommendations such as the bat boxes. The role of the EAC is not to approve plans (they do not have the authority to do so). The committee looks at the plans, decides on recommendations and gives those recommendations to the Board for help in their decision.

Plan for 651 N. Shady Retreat Rd. Mr. Hendrick likes to take a tour of the property when he can to see what is there. To do this, permission is obtained from the land owner so no trespassing laws are violated. Right now, the EAC many looks at what plants are being used to ensure they are natives. Mr. Snyder asked what role the committee played in regard to the invasive species list. Mrs. Stern Goldstein said that a list was included in the ordinance and that the list gets updated and the EAC can make recommendations about what plants should go on the updates.

The process of plan review is guided by the county. We have ninety days to review the plan. Recommendations on the Shady Retreat plan do not have to be made until February 22nd. Mr. Hendrick looked at the plan and did not see anything of concern. After getting permission, he walked the property and mentioned that a lot of trees had been cleared. It was explained that before development plans came they removed trees according to ordinance. The site is 3.9 acres overall.

Mrs. Stern Goldstein began her review by looking at environmental resources on the property. There was a wooded lot that the owner had begun clearing long ago. There was a section of flood plain as well as wetlands on the map. This page also showed existing easements (sewer easement) and existing structures on the property. In the case of this map, the property would have to be visited to determine

subspecies of tree (sugar maple vs. maple). Tree clearing is done by the allowance of removal of a certain percentage of trees within a caliber range. If something is noted, like a potential nesting site, the information should be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors to include in their review of the plans. Mrs. Mitchell would like to be included in the walk abouts of the properties from now on. Mrs. Stern Goldstein explained the benefits of aerial mapping and what certain traits on a map meant. Each page of a plan gives different information regarding the area. Notes in the beginning of the plan will inform the group if it has public water or sewer or an on lot system. The EAC looks at landscape plans a lot.

New Business

New member into- Anne Woodbury was appointed to the EAC. She is a master gardener with ample experience working with native plants and pollinators. Mr. Hendrick welcomed her to the group. Jim Baldassarre was also interested in the open position and although he was not appointed, is interested in continuing his help with the committee. Mr. Touhill was appointed the new staff liaison. Mr. Hendrick welcomed him and thanked Mr. Snyder for his service over the past year. Mr. Snyder thanked the committee for their work.

Old Business

Climate Change Action Plan- Dr. Casas distributed ICLEI paperwork about membership. Membership fees are \$600 a year. Haverford Township was indicated as part of ICLEI and "Cool Cities" group. Dr. Casas also showed the group the ICLEI website and navigated through some of the features to give an example of what is available such as training classes. Dr. Casas has reached out to Lower Makefield township a few times and still has not received an answer. From a conversation with a past Haverford Township EAC member, ICLEI was spoken of favorably; they felt it was a worthwhile group and membership.

Radon Testing- Information provided from the DEP indicated that if the resident list was sent to the DEP for direct mailing, there would be no requirement of the resident taking action if radon was found in the home. The lab analyzes the data and reports the information to the DEP's radon database. This information is used for studies and tracking of high radon levels in certain areas. On the phone, the DEP representative for this project indicated that it is mostly for awareness for the public. She said that Doylestown Borough as well as Solebury Township have sent mailing lists already. The DEP is on a three year grant cycle. In the past, townships have put the radon test coupon in their newsletter but it only yields a 5% return vs. a 40% return with direct mailing. Ms. Milligan explained the article she had written for the newsletter and that it was informational about radon and suggested residents get their homes tested. The group discussed and decided to see if there was any interest created by the article before deciding what to do next.

Shred events- Ms. Canfield presented three quotes from different shred companies. Rapid recycling provides a two/four hour shred event for \$750.00. Blue Mountain Document Destruction offered a two hour event for \$425.00 with each additional hour costing \$85.00. Titan Shredding offered a three hour event for \$725.00. Titan has been used in the past for Township recycling need. Although unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Sablosky provided concerns regarding a shred event in the Township. He indicated that the EAC used to sponsor shred events in the past but stopped because 1. Residents with boxes of paperwork are no more likely to put them in a landfill than a recycling tote and 2. Shredding is a service provided by a business that we would be depleting revenue from by providing the service. Overall, mass shredding of paper reduces the commodity value and ripping the paper and putting it in your home recycling is very secure. Mr. Sablosky offered via e-mail to research the matter more if anyone was interested. The group reviewed the concerns and discussed the matter. There was no

charge in the past to offset cost, but we could always ask for a donation. Mr. Richardson said to ask for a donation. Mr. Brooks was unsure on the matter. Mr. Kulak, a resident, believes he would not use it as he recycles at work but does use other recycling events such as household hazardous waste. Dr. Casas is unsure. Mrs. Woodbury said Staples provides the service for a minimal amount but would be okay with the event if the EAC feels it is valid and useful. Mrs. Mitchell says that shredding has changed drastically and is much more available and is unsure if the event is needed. Mrs. Balizet, a resident, has a home shredder but believes some things are too bulky for it to be feasible. In this case, recycling events are helpful. Mr. Snyder suggested a joint event and Mrs. Mitchell believes an event makes sense if the cost is split. The event would still be hosted at the Township but open to both the Township and the Borough. Mrs. Mason will reach out to the Borough to discuss a possible partnership.

Community Gardens- Ms. Milligan announced that the survey for the community garden was up and running. The newsletter and social media that point to the survey will go out soon. The survey is designed to gauge the general interest of the residents about a community garden site. Mrs. Woodbury asked if there were regulations on what could be grown and who monitors the site. It was discussed that all technicalities would be worked out after we determine if there is enough interest to go forward with the project. A committee would have to be formed for the monitoring of the garden. Having more focused groups for the survey was discussed and Ms. Milligan will reach out to Home Owner's associations to invite their feedback on the project.

Mrs. Mitchell gave an update on the Native Garden Brigade. There will be a maintenance date on March 26th, from 9am-11am. There will also be a planting date on April 30th from 9am-11am. Mrs. Mitchell found a source for mass planting plugs when the time comes.

Mr. Kulak joined the meeting to discuss a section of property behind his home, the Nemad Tract. There used to be a large meadow and natural area in the back of his home that was nice for him and all his neighbors to look at. A bike trail went into the area and disrupted the view. He would like some sort of buffer between the residences and the trails. The EAC informed Mr. Kulak that we had applied for a grant for a planting in that area. If the grant is received, trees and shrubs would be placed in the area helping to create a buffer. Mr. Kulak was also concerned about a silt fence that had been up for an extended period of time and was wondering when it would be taken down. Mrs. Mason explained we could not take it down until the Bucks County Conservation District said it was okay to take down. She will double check with the Township Engineer to ensure it is still properly placed.

Other

The next meeting of this committee will be held February 9th, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield
Special Projects Coordinator