

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
May 9th, 2017

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Sean Sablosky, Chairman; Dr. Jim Baldassarre; Don Richardson, Vice Chairman; Martin Brooks; Dr. Tanya Casas; Jeannine Mitchell; Others: Autumn Canfield, Special Projects Coordinator; Dave Tomko, Director of Operations; Dan Wood, Resident; Jane Neal, Resident

Minutes Approval – 4/10/17

Mr. Brooks motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Richardson seconded. Motion carried 4-0 with 2 abstentions, Ms. Mitchell and Dr. Casas.

Plan Reviews

There were no plans for review.

New Business

Meadow flower-

Ms. Neal was introduced as a member of the Native Plant Brigade that works in the Native Demonstration Garden. She is also a member of garden clubs in the area. Her husband planted a small meadow on Turk Rd. They noticed an area near Kutz where trees had been removed to clear an embankment. Her and her husband would like to see meadow plants put there.

Mr. Tomko informed the group that the area is a PennDOT right-of-way but he will look into if the Township has easements there.

Ms. Neal asked if a meadow is possible and if a project there could be funded by the committee/Township. The meadow planting may be more economical for the Township as it would avoid the need to mow.

Mr. Tomko expressed concern as he has reached out for permission to plant in a PennDOT right-of-way on 611 and was turned down. He will ask the question again, specifically in regard to wildflowers. There may be special permits or requirements attached. A budget for seeds could be more difficult.

Ms. Neal mentioned her son is getting to the age for an Eagle Scout project and it might be a good project for him.

Another option may be to look for a partnership. For example, Bucks Beautiful was at a previous meeting talking about similar projects. They may be willing to work with someone to do a meadow type planting.

Mr. Tomko suggested getting an aerial photo of the area in order to create a design and plan. He will speak with Ms. Neal on how to proceed.

Information-

Ms. Canfield shared documents that were passed to her for the committee's information. Some included well tests for Chloroform that were all under maximum contaminant level. There was also information about a remedial action plan for Tabor Services in reference to a tank system release in 2001. The last document was regarding an environmental covenant recorded with the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds.

Budget Review-

Year to date, approximately \$400.00 has been spent.

Ms. Canfield brought up that the committee has a \$25.00 gift certificate that still needs to be used. Ms. Mitchell would like to use the money for plants for the native garden. Dr. Casas motioned to allow Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brooks to use the money for the native plant demo garden. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Ms. Mitchell discussed the Land Ethics Symposium and what a great experience it was. She collected a lot of good information.

Mr. Sablosky discussed any potential unforeseen costs associated with the budget. Ms. Canfield indicated there was none and the money could be allocated to projects the EAC would like to do.

Ms. Mitchell would like to use some of the money on a native plant demonstration garden sign.

Mr. Sablosky suggested that if someone has a project they would like done, they should do research for cost and other factors and present it to the committee for decision.

Mr. Tomko indicated that there is a budget work session on June 20th so the committee should think about the funding it wants for the future year and suggested to start planning projects now.

Ms. Mitchell inquired about setting money aside to plant on the embankment Ms. Neal spoke about. Ms. Mitchell also requested \$500 to get 500 plugs for the native plant garden.

Mr. Sablosky suggested finding out what is available and what the committee needs.

Mr. Brooks motioned for Jeannine to spend \$500 on 500 plugs for the native plant garden that are deer resistant and varied from what we currently have. Mr. Richardson seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Old Business

Magnet Fundraiser-

Ms. Mitchell sold 1 magnet. Mr. Sablosky sold 1 magnet. Ms. Neal and Mr. Wood each bought a magnet at the meeting.

Record Tree-

Mr. Brooks and Mr. Richardson investigated two silver maple trees on the same property. Both were considered record trees. Ms. Canfield will invite the residents to the June meeting for acceptance of certificates.

Mr. Brooks knows of a tree on the Eastburn property that should be part of the program. He will reach out to the owner for permission to access the property.

Ms. Mitchell suggested an article for the newsletter talking about the trees. Mr. Sablosky thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Sablosky suggested that as a new business item, newsletter articles are listed so the committee can prepare in advance for them.

Native plant garden update-

Ms. Mitchell reported that there were 8 volunteers at the native plant garden planting day. Mr. Touhill donated two winterberry hollies that were planted. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Brooks attended the Park and Recreation Board meeting to ask for permission to expand the native garden. The Park and Rec Board did not have an issue with the idea. The area behind the bird blind and up to the trail will be cleared and used for the native garden. Mr. Brooks has ideas of what to plant there.

Mr. Sablosky suggested it be one of the projects that is budgeted for. The EAC will work with Dave and the Parks Department for the clearing. Mr. Brooks will put together a plan for the trees and a cost estimate.

Ms. Mitchell questioned whether volunteers could start clearing anything on the garden maintenance days.

Mr. Tomko suggested meeting with the Parks Department and speaking with them.

Ms. Mitchell discussed the rocks that were at the garden and that she was happy to be able to put them out around the perimeter.

EAC Summit-

Mr. Baldassarre discussed the Delaware Riverkeepers who have speakers on staff with different topics they can discuss. They are available on June 27th during the planned EAC summit time, 7-9pm. Speaker fees start at \$250. One topic of potential interest is the water quality concerns around PFOS/PFOA. Mr. Tomko indicated that the Doylestown Township Municipal Authority is dealing with PFOS/PFOA in the area. It was suggested that the Executive Director could be approached to speak about the topic as well.

Mr. Sablosky made a motion to have the Delaware Riverkeepers speak about water quality and to provide them with a \$250 donation. Mr. Richardson seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Baldassarre will reach out to schedule with them. Mr. Hass from the Doylestown Township Municipal Authority will be invited as well.

Annual Fall Speaker Series-

It was suggested to partner with Bucks Beautiful and Delaware Valley University for the Fall Speaker Series. At the last meeting Ms. Sezack indicated the group has access to numerous speakers. Mr. Baldassarre will reach out to Ms. Sezack about potential speakers.

Arbor Day-

The Arbor Day observance went well. Mr. Mason from the Public works Department held an educational session with a fifth grade class from Kutz Elementary. Four trees were planted by the shade shelter in Central Park, 2 pin oaks and 2 red maples.

Par Recycling-

Park Recycle works will be at the Township building on June 3rd from 10am-1pm for an electronics recycling event. Mr. Sablosky and Mr. Richardson agreed to be present to check licenses to ensure the event is for residents only.

Ms. Mitchell announced she is leading two bird walks with second grade classes from Kutz Elementary on the upcoming two Thursdays. There are approximately 75 students, 3 teachers and parents involved.

The goal is to see between 8 and 12 species.

Mr. Baldassare inquired about Sauerman Park Pond. Mr. Tomko indicated that Princeton Hydro submitted a grant to turn the area into a wetland BMP and we are waiting to hear back on the results of that.

Dr. Casas brought up the need for cultural sensitivity when working on the Native American Monument in Central Park. Bucks Beautiful has expressed interest in planting around the area and Dr. Casas feels it is important to reach out to a local Native American group for guidance.

Other

The next meeting of this committee will be held June 13th, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm by motion of Mr. Sablosky, seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield