

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Notes by Autumn Canfield
July 11th, 2017

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In Attendance: EAC Members: Martin Brooks; Jeannine Mitchell; Anne Woodbury; Dr. Tanya Casas
Others: Autumn Canfield, Special Projects Coordinator; Shawn Touhill, Supervisor Liaison; Jenn Herring, resident

Meeting called to order by senior member Jeannine Mitchell at 7:07pm.

Guests:

Ms. Herring joined the group as she is running for Township Supervisor and is interested in knowing more about the committee.

Minutes Approval – 6/30/17

Mr. Brooks motioned to approve the minutes, Ms. Woodbury seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Plan Reviews

There were two set of plans to review, Quinlan and Callan. Both sets were resubmittals.

Quinlan- the EAC recommends using a Serbian or Oriental Spruce rather than a Norway Spruce.

Callan- the EAC recommends a mix of natives. For example, red and sugar maple rather than just sugar maple.

New Business

Budget Review-

After reviewing the current budget it was discussed that upcoming projects need to be planned for. In particular the group should talk about the proposed bicentennial projects.

Old Business

Bicentennial Plans-

Mr. Brooks and Ms. Woodbury sat down to discuss tree information. The council wants to use all natives for the tree project and would preferably like to use oaks. Two local nurseries carry potential plants, Coles and Bountiful Acres. Mr. Brooks recommends using 2-2.5" caliber ball and burlap trees 12-18' tall. Currently, the committee would like to plant 200 trees in two groves of twenty trees each and 160 individual trees on residents' properties. Both nurseries have trees available but Bountiful Acres seems to be less expensive. Mr. Brooks will check to see if the price is good for next year as well and will check Feeny's for pricing.

Container trees are a lot less expensive. Mr. Touhill suggested maybe doing container trees for residents and B&B trees for the groves. Dr. Casas asked if residents would be ordering the trees beforehand. Ms. Woodbury indicated it would still have to be planned but pick up of trees would have to be on the same day in the Fall of 2018. In addition to trees, deer guards and signs would have to be purchased; mulch is readily available. Another possibility is getting smaller trees and charging extra to recoup some cost for the grove trees. An estimated budget of \$10,000 was set for the project.

Ms. Woodbury plans to speak with Ms. Sezcak at Bucks Beautiful to see if they could potentially partner. Ms. Woodbury will attend the Bicentennial Committee meeting next week to discuss project.

Mr. Touhill suggested getting Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Bray together for a meeting to talk about the project since the Park and Recreation Board does not meet until September. Ms. Woodbury will organize.

The second idea for Bicentennial is a garden party dedicating the native plant garden. It would need a smaller budget of \$150-\$200.

Native plant garden update-

Mr. Brooks found boulders and suggested putting one in so the Township could see how it would be utilized. Ms. Mitchell requested to hold off on the boulder until after the PHS Greening Contest judging on June 21st.

The previous work day in the garden was cancelled due to potential storms. Ms. Mitchell went out with a few volunteers the following weekend to do some work. Some of the shrubs in the garden did not survive so plant selection will have to be re-evaluated.

Ms. Mitchell brought up that she is able to purchase deer scam at cost for the garden. It would be a 2017 budget item. Ms. Woodbury motioned to approve the purchase of the deer scam for the native garden. Dr. Casas seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Native American Garden Project-

Ms. Woodbury spoke with Ms. Sezcak from Bucks Beautiful regarding the Native American Garden Project. There is currently a shrub in front of the memorial to try to deter children from playing on it. Ms. Sweeney has approved the project and Bucks Beautiful has the materials and funds set. Ms. Woodbury contacted a Native American Museum but they are only open a few days a week, making correspondence difficult. They did say to plant the 3 sisters but the area is not feasible for it. Dr. Casas will be in contact with a Native American student who may be able to assist. The proposed plants all had medical value to Native Americans. Mr. Brooks suggested Pokeberry. Ms. Woodbury pointed out that this is not an EAC project. They committee can suggest but do not have authority over project. A plaque with information was discovered and should be kept safe, potentially in the new building. There can potentially be an indicator of the information on the kiosk across the trail to tell people where to view it.

Ms. Sezcak joined the meeting to discuss the Native American Garden Project. The goal of the project is for a simple planting that is low maintenance and easy to sustain. Ms. Sezcak provided a list of plants with some included for substitution if need be. Plants can be obtained through Bowman's Hill so they are locally sourced seed and native. There is discussion of coloring the lettering on the rock to make it stand out. Bucks Beautiful will maintain area. Ms. Sezcak is going to send PDF version of the proposal. Ms. Mitchell said she had grasses in the native garden that would be better suited to this project and offered to transplant it. The stone was donated from Edison Quarry and used for the dedication of the park ground as it was sacred ground. Mr. Brooks suggested to Ms. Sezcak to use pokeberry.

EAC Summit-

The summit was held on the 27th of June. 27 people attended from 12 different EAC's. It was suggested that at the next summit, we ensure half of the time is allotted to networking. It was also suggested to get EAC shirts as a committee at the Summit had them and they looked very professional.

Magnet Fundraiser-

Ms. Sweeney will allow a table at the fireworks for magnet sales. Goal for the fireworks concert is to sell 200 magnets. 28 magnets have been sold so far. It may be good to work with different venues to try to sell more magnets.

Annual Fall Speaker Series-

Ms. Woodbury spoke with Denise. Unfortunately it is not covered in the Bucks Beautiful mandate to have a speaker regarding kids in nature. They would not be able to partner if the EAC chose this route.

The organization wants to have David Kulp speak in their fall speaker about habitat restoration. Ms. Mitchell thinks it would be a good speaker and bird town event. The fee is between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Bucks Beautiful is willing to split this fee so the worst case price would be \$750.00. Money should be included for advertising so the price could be more like \$1,000 each. Mr. Brooks motioned to spend \$1,000 in the pursuit of David Kulp as the speaker for the Annual Fall Speaker Event. Dr. Casas seconded. Motion carried 4-0. There was discussion of charging for tickets to recoup some of the cost. It may be good to suggest a donation. Information should be posted in the garden centers.

Ms. Herring questioned the Sauerman Park Pond and what would be happening in the area. It was discussed that a grant had been submitted to turn the area into a wetland bmp and the Township was awaiting a response from the program.

Other

The next meeting of this committee will be held August 8th, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm by motion of Ms. Woodbury, seconded Dr. Casas. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Canfield