

Doylestown Township's Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020

In Attendance:

T. Casas
J. Baldassarre
M. Brooks
S. Mason (Manager)
J. Mitchell (Chair)
Kara Raymond (Resident)
C. Sawyer
H. Shiver
A. Susten (Special Projects)
D. Wood (Supervisor)
A. Woodbury(Vice Chair)

I. Minutes approval: March, May and June 2020. A. Woodbury made a motion to approve the March minutes, seconded by H. Shiver. J. Mitchell noted the misspelling of Rick Schea's name to be corrected in the June Minutes. H. Shiver made a motion to approve the June Minutes with the correction, seconded by M. Brooks. Later in the meeting, the May minutes were reviewed and H. Shiver made a motion for their approval, seconded by T. Casas.

II. Budget Review; There is \$5792.23 currently in our budget.

1. J. Mitchell checked the status of our Native Plant brochures. A. Susten is still waiting for proof approval until Friday and if not solved, will move to another printer. 1000 are ordered at the cost of \$500.

2. Two Fossil signs have been removed and need replacing near the Native Garden. A. Woodbury, A. Susten and J. Mitchell will work together to create new signs about trees.

ACTION: A Zoom meeting will be set up to discuss this.

3. Poole's Corner tree planting this fall: There is \$1500 from Bucks Beautiful, \$1500 from the Doylestown Borough and \$1500 from Doylestown Township to purchase these trees. **September 12 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**, before the Bike, Hike and Trail Awareness Event, was determined as the date and time of the tree planting and J. Baldassarre added the event to the EAC calendar. There will be between 20-22 trees planted. EAC members and other participants will be required to wear masks, bring their own equipment and follow social distancing guidelines for this event. The trees and holes will be set up beforehand.

ACTIONS:

S. Mason will contact Denise Sezack to confirm the funding and purchasing of the trees.

A. Woodbury will send S. Mason the email for Denise.

A. Susten will check the tree list and check with Jeff Schumacher to see if the trees are still tagged.

c. J. Mitchell noted that heavy black plastic is needed for weed solarization in the native garden. A. Woodbury made a motion to authorize the purchase of the plastic, spending up \$50, seconded by J. Baldassarre. J. Mitchell will make the purchase and submit a receipt for reimbursement.

ACTION: The black plastic will be installed at the next native garden workday on July 25 from 9-11 a.m.

III. New Business

a. J. Mitchell warmly welcomed Curt Sawyer as our new EAC member, who is passionate about renewable energy, already an active in the Bucks Ready for 100 group and a township resident for 8 years.

b. Deer issues: The township has received a few questions from residents asking what is being done to address the deer population and predation on residential plantings. J. Mitchell asked the EAC members to review the PA Game Commission's "A Guide to Community Deer Management In PA" as well as the brochure, "Don't Feed the Deer".

H. Shiver mentioned that Solebury EAC met with Bucks Audubon to create a survey to ask residents about deer issues.

ACTION: H. Shiver will forward the draft survey to the group.

This is an issue to be included in the Annual Summit. After discussing, several actions were decided, including focusing on educating of how to protect young plants and trees, provide deer resistant plant lists, create an informative video and create a deer management section under our EAC tab on the township website, where residents can be directed.

ACTION: A. Susten will create a deer management section under our EAC tab on the township website.

ACTION: J. Baldassarre will write up a white paper on the issue.

c. Resident Kara Raymond, who lives near Edison Furlong for over 7 years, lives next to a patch of land filled with weeds and dead Ash trees. The township has already removed 5 of the 7 dead trees. She would like to help clean this out and plant 3 new trees. S. Mason explained that this parcel was part of the Wilkshire Tract, which were 100'x20' lots that were sold in the early 1900s at the movie theatres and were tax exempt. Over time the township acquired these multiple lots, with some now serving as basins and wooded areas.

ACTION: S. Mason will check on these plots and ordinances.

J. Mitchell suggested that they would become 'mini-forests' to create green corridors through our community. Perhaps, a 'Mini-Forest Brigade' could be created to clean these areas up and plant native plants and trees. H. Shiver and T. Casas and M. Brooks and also Kara Raymond offered to help with initiative.

ACTION: J. Mitchell will find out more about the lots and create a map of where they are located.

D. Wood suggested sending a letter to residents before doing work on these lots.

d. EAC Annual Summit will be held on October 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., most likely via Zoom, but depending on the COVID-19 status, could be held in the large conference room at the township building.

ACTION: A. Susten will send out a Save the Date invitation by the end of August.

ACTION: J. Baldassarre will draft an agenda before the next EAC meeting.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

a. Ready for 100: J. Baldassarre reported that the group is having monthly meetings on the first Wednesday each month, with good attendance and momentum. Solebury and Buckingham townships are close to passing their resolutions. He noted that we need to identify the next steps in moving forward in our township and can include purchasing renewable energy, etc.

ACTION: J. Baldassarre will set up a meeting before the next EAC meeting to discuss the next steps with S. Mason, D. Wood, D. Tomko, C. Sawyer, H. Shiver and others.

b. Bird Town: H. Shiver reported that Bird Town is on hold at the moment due to the restructuring and merger going on with Audubon PA and Maryland creating a regional structure called Audubon Midatlantic.

c. Invasive Plant of the Month blog in lieu of hands-on workshops: July - December . H. Shiver, J. Mitchell and A. Susten will work on this together. A list has already been created.

ACTION: H. Shiver will draft the July entry for Stilt Grass.

d. Composting: DVU grant. T. Casas and S. Mason mentioned that there isn't a good fit to work together on this project.

e. Native Plant Demonstration Garden: June maintenance day went well. A. Susten completed the PHS application. Due to increased pollinator activity, yellow tape was put up to act as a barrier. J. Mitchell met with Chris Mason to discuss issues with weed whacking. J. Mitchell reported that several *Carex Appalachia* were stolen. J. Mitchell would also like more entries included for the "Look What's Blooming in the Garden" on Instagram.

V. Old/Ongoing Business

a. The memorial yellowwood tree and bench to honor EAC member Don Richardson is all set with funding obtained. J. Schumacher will have it planted in fall and some clearing will be needed to establish its placement.

a. Recycling magnets are available.

b. The display case is installed and still waiting for the Putnam Environmental Education Center sign to be added.

c. Single-use plastics initiative is on hold.

d. There is no news regarding the Sauerman Park Grant.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 7 pm. Location TBA or via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Heidi Shiver on July 22, 20