

Doylestown Township EAC Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

J. Baldassarre
M. Brooks
M. Carota (guest)
T. Casas
J. Mitchell (Chair)
Kara Raymond (guest)
C. Sawyer
H. Shiver
A. Walizer (Special Projects Coordinator)
D. Wood (Supervisor)
A. Woodbury (Vice-Chair)

Meeting minutes from January are approved.

Budget reviewed. Budget for 2021 is \$5500. We note that the General Ledger has a starting balance of \$2427. This needs to be check next month. The estimate for the Fossil tree signs is now estimated at \$2500, which is much higher than previously expected.

Colleen Mullin's discussion of leaf recycling is tabled until next month.

Tree planting program. A. Woodbury makes the EAC aware that Upper Makefield has a reimbursement program for homeowners who plant trees and is funded from fees on developers who remove trees. We may want to replicate this program in Doylestown. A. Woodbury will get more information from the UM EAC to understand how this is implemented and will also speak to the Planning Commission to see what regulations currently apply.

Ready for 100. C. Sawyer reports that the Bucks County Ready for 100 is submitting a draft resolution to the County for consideration. In addition, the group has created goals seeking at least 8 communities to have an energy audit in the next 4 years. C. Sawyer is reviewing electricity usage in the Township and will report back as soon as possible. J. Baldassarre met with Township staff to discuss the level of interest in having an EV charger placed at the TWP building. There is no immediate need for an EV charger for the TWP, and its not clear if here is any need for a public charger at this point.

Native Plant Garden The first workday for the native plant garden will be March 27. There is now a plan to extend the garden across from the bird blind. There is also interest in planting a grove of 7 to 9 sassafras trees nearby; M. Brooks will look for a source of trees.

Bird Town. H. Shiver has scheduled 3 birds walks for 2021 and has developed a calendar of birding events. Birdbox cleanout day is February 27, and 9 volunteers have been identified. The Great Backyard Bird Count will be advertised on the TWP website and FB page.

Nontoxic Communities Program Subcommittee met and will meet again on February 24 to develop a presentation for HOAs. A. Walizer will get the list of HOAs in the TWP so the EAC can start to make contacts.

The Neshaminy Greenway Trail segment 2/ Bucks County Planning Commission meeting will be held on February 10. The original public input was quite minimal. The EAC notes there is substantial erosion around the Neshaminy in that area and some remediation is needed, eg, riparian buffer planting. As part of the Pennsylvania MS4 mandates, there may be money available from the Commonwealth to assist with remediation. In addition, the EAC would like to know how development plans along the Neshaminy are monitored. Specifically, the EAC would like to confirm that the recently build storage facility on northbound Rt 611 installed the plants that were agreed in the plan. J. Baldassarre will contact S. Mason to see how these plans are enforced.

Invasive plant of the month is wineberry.

J. Baldassarre presented the EAC feedback regarding the proposed Rec Center. The estimated cost is about \$4.9 million and the size is estimated to be around 12,000 sq ft. Additional public meetings will be held in the near future. The EAC has concerns about the impact of such a large structure on the ecology and aesthetic of the park.

A meeting has been proposed with Parks and Rec Committee to discuss Park Partners. A plan needs to be developed. Rock Creek Park in Washington DC has a model program we might learn from.

A meeting is also proposed with Dave Tomko to discuss preservation of “movie lots” and land conservation. Kara Raymond and A. Woodbury offers to set up a meeting to brainstorm ideas for a plan to be discussed with Dave Tomko.

With regard to policy for mowing and maintaining retention basins, D. Wood checked with New Britain Township. They do not have a policy on mowing. The EAC would like the mowing of retention basins discussed as part of the land preservation plan. The commonwealth and Villanova University have online resources for best practices for retention basins, rain gardens and pervious surfaces.

The next EAC meeting will be held on March 9 at 7pm.