

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 1, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee was held on the above date and time with the following members present: Chairperson Wendy Margolis and Ben Bell. Also present were Mayor Strouse, EAC Member Steve Rubenstein, and Borough Manager John Davis.

Minutes of the February 2018 Committee meeting were approved.

The Committee discussed the **possibility of a second community garden** to be located on the Borough-owned property on Harvey Avenue adjacent to the Borough's maintenance facility. John presented a layout of a proposed garden of the same size as the existing garden. The Mayor will present the idea with the Committee's blessing to the current Board of the Community Garden at the annual meeting in March.

John updated the Committee on the **prospect of public charging stations** for electric and hybrid vehicles. Zygmunt Motors is now proposing to donate two charging stations. The Committee settled on the Plaza West Parking Lot for one unit, but was undecided about the location of the second, with the Pine Street and Plaza East Lots and South Pine Street at the Michener Museum as possibilities to be explored. John will work with Public Works to explore the details of installation at these sites and report back to the Committee next month.

John next briefed the Committee on a proposed **Eagle Scout Project** on the Borough-owned "island" at the intersection of Kreutz and South Chubb. The Committee has concerns about whether the adjacent neighbors and/or the Maplewood Gardens would support the project. John will reach out to the scout and invite him to attend a future meeting to present his project. The neighbors and the Maplewood Gardens will also be invited.

Steve Rubenstein of the EAC next gave an update on **Bird Town activities**.

Under New Business, Wendy presented a request for support for the **Renewable Energy Coalition** for a proposed Bill calling for fossil fuel independence in the Commonwealth by 2050. The proposed Bill, however, is not yet available. The Committee decided to delay any action until more information is available.

Ben raised a number of concerns relative to tree removals and whether attention is being paid early enough in the permitting process. After a lengthy discussion, the issue was postponed for another time. John will investigate and report back.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Davis
Borough Manager

JHD:sa