

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, May 15, 2018

Attendance: George Mullikin, Larry Browne, Mike Moscherosch , Steve Rubenstein, Karyn Hyland, Kristin Winters

1) Call to Order: Mike M. called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

2) Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as written with one typo correction.

3) Old Business:

Basin Walk Maintenance Recommendations

- The EAC visited the Public Works Stormwater Basin on April 26th. During their visit they noted that the basin contains some invasive vegetation, primarily *Phragmites australis* (common reed), *Polygonum cuspidatum* (Japanese knotweed), and *Rosa multiflora* (multiflora rose), which should all be managed. There was a trash rack laying on the ground instead of hanging in place at the outlet, and it looked like it had been there for a while; Karyn H. will look into this. Karyn H. observed that the forebay and some areas of the main basin need to be desilted; this is important for preventing sedimentation issues in Cooks Run at the outlet. Steve R. asked about the cleanliness of Cooks Run, and Karyn H. reviewed how the borough output to the stream is regulated and monitored. Another issue noted at the site is that the area on the eastern corner of the site adjacent to the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority receives significant runoff from the parking area and should be stabilized with a level spreader or other intervention. The berm at the outlet end of the basin is nearly completely overgrown with native sumac trees, but the group observed that at this point the sumacs are helping to hold the erosion matting on the berm together and should be left in place. In summary, priorities for the site are invasive vegetation management, desilting, the trash rack, and erosion management. Karyn H. also suggested we include a maintenance plan, including an annual reinspection and plans to address issues. Karyn H. will send Kristin W. the engineering language, and Kristin W. will combine it with information about and pictures of the invasive plants to create a tangible assessment and recommendations. This will be provided to Public Works in response to their request for information to give to the county. The county is responsible for the basin's maintenance.
- The group discussed that the basin is an asset to the community and a valuable bird habitat. Steve R. suggested that we should think about what's possible with this area. It would be nice for the public to be able to appreciate it somehow, although maybe a viewing path around the outside would be most appropriate. The difficult access to the site is an important part of what protects it for birds. Karyn H. noted that since it is an operating public works, we'd need to avoid excessively directing residents through the public works area. The group will keep the area on their radar for potential future suggestions to the borough in terms of public access and appreciation. In the meantime, as Mike M. reiterated, it will continue to be important as a bird habitat.
- Mike M. suggested we visit again to see what native plants are growing. George M. suggested that if we walk through again we could think about suggesting plants that would improve the

habitat. Karyn H. noted that the county is only obligated to maintain plants that have died, and George M. suggested we could propose plants to fill in where invasives are removed.

Trash Hauler Update

- Joe W. had said at the last meeting that he would be organizing the trash hauler questions. Mike M. noted that he had started putting together some information, including phone numbers; Kristin W. will start putting the file Mike M. made on the Google drive.
- Karyn H. asked if we would seek the information via phone calls or mail. The group discussed that maybe phone calls make sense since there are only a small number of providers. Mike M. will develop a script for the calls.
- By the next meeting we should have the questions ready for calls and the contact info.
- Karyn H. noted that that we should include a question about costs/price ranges and pickup dates, since the borough currently provides that information to new residents.
- George M. suggested we include info in the borough Citizen Guides about environmental issues. Karyn H. will look into linking new resident info, citizen guides, and environmental issues.

Green Initiatives

- A vision statement and plan is probably the best approach to any green initiatives right now. Karyn H. suggested we use these two items to steer our thinking forward and table the details for now
- Mike M. suggested we could do the same thing for restaurants that we're doing for trash haulers. After we're done compiling information, we can share what some restaurants are doing in terms of green practices.
- George M. suggested providing recognition of restaurants who are adhering to green practices for residents who seek to make consumer choices based on environmental info.
- Karyn H. suggested that we could create a fact sheet with info about the restaurants.
- Mike M. noted that we are looking at two issues: 1) is our time well spent in creating a fact sheet (we should ask if restaurants are interested), and 2) if there are green restaurants is there a way to recognize them? He also observed that providing recognition might generate more interest among restaurant owners in providing information for a fact sheet.
- Mike M. suggested that we should clarify for next meeting what our projects are, discuss them, and vote on them. George M. made a motion in favor, and the group approved this suggestion.

4) New Business

- George M. asked if there was an update on the PennDot building/new Borough Hall and the Broad Street Park.
- Karyn H. showed a map of the park and said that George Donovan's office is designing the building renovations. At this point there is a conceptual floor plan. Further developments will still take some time, but the borough will certainly be trying to incorporate some green practices into the design and renovation.

5) Birdtown

- Steve R. provided an update on Birdtown developments and reorganization. A planning meeting will be this Thursday if anyone is able to attend; there is a lot going on with the group.

- Steve R. noted that Doylestown Township has done a great job on a wetland bird habitat near Kids' Castle.

5) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Mike M. at 9:23 pm.

6) Next Meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19th, at 7:30pm in the Doylestown Borough Hall.