

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, December 17, 2019

Attendance: Joe Wallace, George Mullikin, Steve Rubenstein, Kristin Winters, Adam Howell, Chris May (Shade Tree Commission), Jim Resek (STC), Judith Stratton (STC), Anne Woodbury (Doylestown Twp EAC), Jeannine Mitchell (DTEAC), Mayor Strouse, Dave Berger, Karyn Hyland (arrived approx. 8 pm from another meeting)

1) Call to Order: Dave B. welcomed everyone to the joint meeting of the EAC (Borough and Twp) and Shade Tree Commission and called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

2) Approval of Minutes: Adam H. made a motion to approve the minutes, Joe W. seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.

3) Ten Days for Trees Schedule

- Anne W. introduced the schedule as of today. (Parts of it may change by April.) The 10 days will be 4/16 through 4/25.
- 4/16 – the pop-up forest and oral history posters will be in the new Township Admin Building. The posters will be a collaboration between seniors and youth. Anne W. and Jeannine M. are meeting with two people at Pine Run. They also have some contacts who are helping them work with 6th graders and high school students.
- 4/17 – Bucks Co. Poet Laureate program. Several people associated with this will participate. If there is an instrumental quartet or similar group, that might be nice to add.
- 4/18 – tree planting, possibly at Central Park or Pools Corner. We may plant the northern section of Pools Corner on this day, then the part by the retention basin on the second Saturday. We need to get trees; various nurseries and possibilities for donations or sponsors were discussed. There will be a concert scheduled for this night.
- 4/19 - still awaiting confirmation of speaker. There will be a walk in Hart's Woods, the oldest woodlot in Bucks Co.
- 4/20 – talk at Fonthill with maybe a walk afterwards. That night at the County Theater there will be a short film "The Atomic Tree" then a feature length film "The Call of the Forest". This will be the only fee event.
- 4/21 – talk at Heritage Conservancy. They preserved Hart's Woods. There may be a walk afterwards, then hopefully a speaker that night.
- 4/22 – riparian planting. There is a riparian buffer to be planted in Central Park by Kids' Castle. This is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. There will be a speaker that night.
- 4/23 – still confirming/clarifying class. There will be a discussion that evening at the Doylestown Bookshop about "The Songs of Trees".
- 4/24 – Chris M. will do a Doylestown Cemetery Tree Tour. There will be a speaker from Audubon that evening, or a similar speaker.
- 4/25 – final planting at Pools Corner. Jeannine M. described Anne W.'s effort to organize a tree planting last year. About 210 B&B trees were planted over two Saturdays by approximately 30 volunteers, The Township augered the holes then volunteers put the trees in the ground.
- Grants – Joe W. asked about deadlines. Anne W. said the last she's heard, Bucks Beautiful is going to open the applications at the end of the year. A planting plan is needed. Jeff Schumacher

who frequently attends Twp EAC meetings would like to help, and there are many between the Shade Tree and EAC groups who can also help put it together.

- Dave B. noted that an overall scope of how all of our groups will work together will be important. Anne W. said Marty Brooks on their EAC helped organize getting trees for the last planting. They used Cole's Nursery. We'll have to look at budgets and how we will divide everything up. Jeannine M. said it should all be native trees. Dave B. said that we should figure out what all of the tasks are and how we will divide them up so we can start working on the specific tasks. Dave B. is very familiar with the Twp Public Works department, so this will help us work together.
- Mayor Strouse noted that we could also develop a working relationship with Tree Tenders. Chris M. knows a TT instructor, and the Doylestown Nature Club has TT members too.
- Anne W. noted that trees in their last project were sponsored, which helped with costs.
- Anne W. said there are areas in Central Park that could use some evergreens. There will be a "Buy a Branch" fundraiser for a fall planting as a separate project.
- Anne W. noted that the Bookshop has been very helpful. They will have the book club and will also set up a table with tree-related books.
- There will be a "passport" to get stamped at each event; a certain number of stamps will earn the participant a tree seedling. A raffle will collect contact info and will result in a larger tree giveaway and planting.
- Dave B. said we should also encourage residents to plant as many trees on their own properties as possible. That will also be a part of this event. Jeannine M. agreed that we want to increase awareness. She described the native plant info that they have just made available to Twp residents. We could also talk to nurseries to encourage them to avoid selling invasives.
- Anne W. created a planting pledge card. It is too expensive to mail, but it will somehow be made available to encourage residents to plant trees and maintain them. Maybe it will be part of a table event. It will also have info on it for additional resources. Chris M. suggested having this type of info available at every speaker event.
- Mayor Strouse suggested the Bookshop could sponsor a book signing by a tree- or environment-related author. This could draw attention to Earth Day in particular. These events draw big audiences.
- Joe W. suggested we decide on a date for the members who will develop the planting plan to meet at Pools Corner. We will put out a few dates and see who will be available. The emails will be sent to members from all participating groups. Chris M. will call Jeff Schumacher to include him. Potential dates will be 1/11, 1/12, 1/18, and 1/19. Joe W. suggested and Dave B. said he will implement a Doodle Poll to decide on a date.
- Joe W. said we need to decide on the scope, partners, and timeline for the project. Dave B. reiterated this is most important. Anne W. noted that all of our groups coming together will be a very positive things that comes out of this.
- The group discussed that Pools Corner may be a good place to put some signage; Discover Doylestown may be able to help with this. There could also be a kiosk for bikes like the ones on the Parkway.
- Mayor Strouse and Dave B. noted that we need to talk to the State, since they own the parcels in the area of Pools Corner, to make sure that we have PennDOT's blessing. We'll need to do this very quickly. Chris M. spoke to a landscape architect who may be able to help. Dave B. will talk to Karyn H. and decide how to move forward with this. This conversation will happen tomorrow

so we can move quickly. Joe W. said we should flesh out our verbiage for the scope of work and partners to present to PennDOT. The Borough will take the lead on working with PennDOT.

- The Shade Tree Commission and the Township EAC meet on 1/14, then we will all come together at the next Borough EAC meeting on 1/21 to discuss our next steps.

4) Community Wildlife Habitat Discussion

- Karyn H. noted this is something we can think about for the future. We received the info in our meeting packets. It is a partnership through the National Wildlife Federation. Steve R. noted that Audubon Bird Town has similar goals.

Old/New Business:

5) Sustainable PA

- This is through PML. George M. said there is no cost, but they ask a manager from the Borough to fill out the paperwork (this will take some time). The person who fills it out will need to know everything that we are doing. A certification is earned based on a point system. There is a checklist, and we are probably already doing quite a bit of it. There are three levels of certification (Gold, Silver, Bronze). Mayor Strouse noted that the standards are going to be changed soon to be more difficult. The review process not only brings certification but helps us think about what we are doing and what we are not but could be doing. George M. said we could probably put much of the info together at a meeting; Karyn H. said that she probably knows most of the info. She recommended that the EAC put together a request outlining our intentions and the benefits. George M. will put something together for the next meeting.

6) Single Use Plastics

- Tuesday March 10 is the viewing of "Bag It", potentially with a public discussion afterwards. The County Theater is reserved. The showing will be around 6 pm.
- Joe W. did not have a chance to work on a logo, but he will try to get this together for our next meeting. It would be good to have this for the 3/10 event.
- Adam H. has been working on a write-up for the Borough Bulletin. He did a mock-up of the page. It includes our mission statement, our recycling sticker, the 10 Days of Trees, and a Q&A with the Mayor or someone else. Topics could include the development of the plastics ordinance (and waiting for the State prohibition to be lifted), as well as the main issues we're addressing. The page could also include the survey results and upcoming events like the movie. Joe W. can help with the layout; Karyn H. said that we could also send the pieces to her and the Borough will help with the layout. The deadline for copy is around 2/1; Mayor Strouse will find out the exact date. If we have our logo by then it could go on the page; Joe W. will get some concepts to us so this can happen.
- George M. noted that we successfully collected contact info at the farmers market and he has put it all together. Karyn H. suggested that after we send D-mail announcements of our projects we could send another email to those on the list with updates about events.
- For the bag/milk crate exchange we could talk to Discover Doylestown. At their next meeting we could talk about the bag share and the potential for a gateway at Pools Corner. Mayor Strouse said their group does community cleanups throughout the year, which may be an event we could connect to somehow.
- The Township EAC will be sending a survey to residents in January, based on ours.

- Adam H. asked about the Trex program. Currently the collected plastic bags are at George M.'s house. There is a 6-month time limit for collections within the program. We probably shouldn't register until we can get enough within the time limit. Joe M. suggested we could sign up for it at the end of March, so our 6-month window will start with the farmers market.
- Mayor Strouse asked if we will be talking to the Bucks Co. Foodshed Alliance to encourage vendors to use reusable bags. Joe W. agreed this is a conversation that should happen.

7) Composting Bins

- Mayor Strouse talked about a previous County program that made composting bins available to residents. If we did a program like this, we would need to include education for residents. Adam H. will look into this. Anne W. suggested the PADEP could help with this.

8) Adjournment: George M. moved to adjourn the meeting, Kristin W. seconded. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 8:54 pm.

9) Next Meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:30 pm in the Doylestown Borough Hall.