

Borough of Doylestown

Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Attendance: George Mullikin, Kristin Winters, Adam Howell, David Kapturowski, Steve Rubenstein, Karyn Hyland, Anne Woodbury (Doylestown Twp EAC), Jeannine Mitchell (DTEAC), Jeff Schumacher, Gina Frederick, Wendy Margolis, Chris May (Shade Tree Commission); Mayor Strouse, Larry Brown, and Jack O'Brien arrived at approximately 8:45 pm

1) Call to Order: George M. called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

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

3) Ten Days for Trees

- Since our last meeting the Shade Tree Commission held their meeting and discussed the 10 Days for Trees.
- Tonight's discussion focused primarily on the Pools Corner tree planting. Karyn H. reported that while at the last meeting we discussed having reps from all 3 groups meet at the site to develop a planting plan, Borough staff met separately and decided for efficiency to narrow this down. This led to Jeff S. and his group creating a plan.
- Jeff S. and Gina F. presented the plan to the group. They discussed that this is a master plan to help visualize how to handle the overall space. The plantings are placed along the path and in natural groupings. There are groves where picnic tables could be placed. They noted that the hawthorns on the plan are placeholders for understory trees. The group discussed that hawthorn has good wildlife value, although it has thorns and there may be issues with mildew which would require maintenance. Eastern redbud and fringetree could be other possibilities, perhaps also dogwood, although we would need to check the soils for dogwood. Some varieties of winterberry could work well. Chris M. discussed that tulip trees grow quickly and start to break apart. In a public space like this, we may want to go with something more controlled. Jeff S. and Chris M. discussed the hybrid elm, although they have some concerns about the soil with this. A tree that's been successful in the borough is bicolor oak (swamp white oak), so this may be a possibility. The group discussed hornbeam; this requires good soils. *Ostreia virginiana* is another possibility for an understory tree, and this tree is a little tougher. Anne W. said she thinks the soil is probably not very good, so more hardy trees make sense here. Chris M. pointed out that sugar maples may also struggle a little bit here, and the linden gets defoliated in summer in fully exposed sights like this. We need to keep in mind that the soils aren't great and the trees will be exposed to a lot of heat from the roads and exposure. Chris M. said river birch, swamp white oak, and cedar will all do well. Jeff S. and Chris M. discussed that honey locust and sycamore would be good trees to include, as well as sweetbay magnolia. Chris M. suggested a grouping of 3 sycamores. Kristin W. noted that magnolia and cedar trees would provide some evergreen/semi-evergreen cover for the site. *Nyssa sylvatica* (black gum) will also be important on the site. Chris M. created a conceptual layout for where some of these suggested trees could go.

- Chris M. noted that if we need to go with just 15 trees now, we may want to go with structure first, then add berries/color later. Karyn H. reiterated this. Gina F. said that the first layout she did had 20 trees, so she can bring that layout back if we need to reduce the number of trees.
- The group is discussing using 2"-3" caliper trees. The trees will be placed in the pre-augered holes, so all volunteers need to do is backfill.
- Karyn H. pointed out that on the curve where the merge lane starts, some trees will need to be removed for sight lines; cars need to see bikes/pedestrians.
- Anne W. asked about mowing. The Township will be responsible for mowing, and in the past they've been told to move everything 10' off the path. Chris M. pointed out that if we only plant 15 trees there will be more space between to maintain.
- Karyn H. noted that the median between the path and parking is about 10', so having a tree there makes sense; this could also be where we put the shrubs later.
- George M. asked about the additional empty green space on the other side of the road that we had previously discussed planting. There was concern with the Township about volunteers crossing the road, so we will wait on this area.
- Gina F. will make some revisions based on the conversation, with some tree substitutions and some understory trees.
- Anne W. asked about the budget from the Borough. Karyn H. said we don't have a number right now, but she'll look into this. Anne W. said the Township has gotten a PECO grant for a kiosk and some planting, but it will not cover most of the trees. The Township EAC voted to put \$1,500 into the project and they have a matching grant from Bucks Beautiful, so they have \$3,000. We have a budget of about \$1,500 for the trees.
- The plan currently calls for larger trees because it is a park setting and the Township EAC previously had good success with the larger trees. Chris M. suggested doing the structural trees at this level, then maybe coming back with restoration level plantings (smaller) for the understory and shrub layer.
- Jeff S. suggested he could put water bags on the trees. Perhaps also a neighbor or a local source could help out with watering.
- The group discussed that having a phased plan would be helpful. Gina F. will work on this, perhaps creating different CAD layers for the different phases so we can view one phase at a time. She will also increase the text size on the plant key and add colors for species.
- As a next step, Anne W. and Jeannine M. will talk to the Township to begin communicating with the Borough about budget.
- The planting day at Pools Corner is Saturday 4/25. The Township group will be back at the next Borough EAC meeting on 2/18, when we will be able to look at the updated plans (perhaps with Jeff S.'s group) and discuss future steps.

Old/New Business:

4) Logo for Doylestown Ditches Disposables and the EAC

- This will be a logo that we can use for branding.
- Wendy M. asked if we should run "Doylestown Ditches Disposables" by others to see if the name makes sense. Karyn H. said that this will be a purpose of the branding, to help others understand what we are working on. Adam H. noted that Doylestown Ditches Disposables covers many projects in addition to plastics; branding should focus on the big picture.
- The group agreed to go with option C from the EAC samples, and we can use the same format in blue for Doylestown Ditches Disposables. We will ask Joe to do some variations for different

uses. Steve noted that one place to use it could be to remind residents to bring their reusable bags with them when they go shopping.

5) Movie at the County – “Bag It”

- The movie is on 3/10. Wendy M. will introduce those of us who are at the showing, then we can present a brief preamble in which we discuss the survey results and provide some education. The movie, which is about 1.25 hours, will be shown next, followed by Q&A.
- The info we discuss will echo what is going in the newsletter.
- Mayor Strouse suggested we could ask a Penn Environment rep to participate in the Q&A.
- The group decided we will not hand out an agenda, just talk about what we are doing.
- The group will preview the movie at 6:30 pm on Thursday 2/6. Then at the next EAC meeting we will solidify what we will say about it at the showing.

6) Sustainable PA Criteria

- George M. described the Sustainable PA program and ran through the points system. It would be useful to go through this to see how we are doing as a municipality. This would also be a good thing to show the public to share what the Borough is doing regarding sustainability.
- We can formally apply to the program. This does not cost money but will take some time on the part of Borough staff. They would need to gather supporting documentation, etc.
- We would need to make a recommendation to get Council and leadership behind us.
- Mayor S. suggested we get a copy of a submission from a successful municipality. We should be able to do this, since successful submissions have been posted and are accessible. The materials to be provided with submissions are web links.
- Mayor S. noted there is an incentive to do this sooner rather than later, since the requirements will become more stringent later this year.
- George M. will put together a document recommending that the Borough apply to this program.
- George M. and Karyn H. agreed that doing a trial run to see how we end up would be a good idea. Karyn H. looked through the criteria earlier and is confident that we would do well.

7) Newsletter

- The newsletter deadline is the end of February, and it is distributed in May.
- Adam H. walked the group through the layout for our page in the newsletter. It will include items such as our recycling sticker, plastics reduction, our longer-term vision, and a summary of the survey results, as well as a Q&A with the mayor with 2-3 key questions.
- Some of the layout will be done by Borough staff; we provide content.
- We will finalize our newsletter submission at the next meeting.

8) Adjournment: Dave K. moved to adjourn the meeting, and Adam H. seconded. The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 9:37 pm.

9) Next Meeting: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:30 pm in the Doylestown Borough Hall.