

HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 13, 2023

6:00 PM

Hellam Township Building

Members Present: Carolyn Fetrow, Ed Hamme, Tom Knaub, Phyllis Koster, Judith Mueller, Bill Sprenkle, as well as Audrey Russin (Advisor to EAC)

BOS rep: Todd Trimmer

Guests: Gail Easton, Mike Shillot

Welcome new member, Ed Hamme—interested in EAC thanks to sign in Buchanan Park. Problem with recycling in his condo community. Same truck empties both trash and recycling bins. Todd recommends calling Republic. Ed will reach out to his HOA.

Kreutz Creek Stormwater Management: Mike Shillot updated EAC on Stormwater Management project progress. (More detailed EAC notes on Mike's presentation available upon request.)

Some EAC-relevant highlights:

- EAC possible involvement—with homeowners.
- Mike hopes EAC might help get the word out about the story reporting page.
- <https://arcg.is/1Xezir> : Stormwater story map and reporter tool on Twp website—public needs to know. Judith will ask Kate about communicating about resident reporting for Stormwater Plan in Newsletter and EAC Facebook page. (Judith observes that these tools are not readily visible on the Twp website.)
- Survey for comprehensive plan could be useful for this subject too.
- Bill: Importance of reaching out to landowners. Need to educate them about value of tree planting, e.g.
- Tom K. Knows property owner for Mike to contact.
- Look at more areas beyond along Creek whose properties affect waterflow. On unnamed and unknown tributaries. Water company pipes, spring houses, other sources of water.
- Mike thinks hydrology study will give us info about properties to contact. Then identify landowners. Encourage to contact neighbors on either side.
- Bill: Hopes the plan will evolve into a Strategic Plan that will include specific action plan and dates.
- What about attracting volunteers to help with work on properties (see below)?
- Mike: call Emily at YCCD to visit problematic properties.
- Mike: start with Klein property.
- How to involve, incentivize farmers?
- Judith will send Mike EAC email addresses.

Volunteer recruitment:

- Program Twp might acquire could have a volunteer recruitment tool. (Citizen Lab?)
- Setting up such a tool is labor intensive. But once established, it's invaluable.
- We have the software. Different groups need to set up this function.
- Bill S.: EAC needs to be educated about how to reach out.
- Bill will contact Lancaster Conservancy for advice about attracting volunteers.

Roadside mowing: Phyllis sent proposal for BOS about changing roadside mowing practices to help pollinators. (At subsequent BOS meeting, proposal was approved.)

Tree planting—Carolyn's update:

- March 30th with 3 girl scouts. Steve Ott property, Freysville Road. 25 trees.
- Gavin Klein—has a spring that creates wet conditions. Planting possibly 100 trees. Contacted Watershed Stewards for planting. Before April 7, hopefully.
- Audrey recommends weekend to involve Watershed Stewards.
- Carolyn: Let's invite the very property owners we want to reach to get involved in tree plantings
- Watershed Stewards can educate property owners.

Pollinator Celebration—need to meet with Julie Flinchbaugh. Phyllis will set up.