

HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 11, 2023

6:00 PM

Hellam Township Building

Members Present: Carolyn Fetrow, Ed Hamme, Phyllis Koster, Judith Mueller, Audrey Russin (advisor to EAC)

BOS Rep: Todd Trimmer—last meeting with EAC. Todd urges members to involve themselves in comprehensive plan. Members thank Todd for his service and presence.

Old Business:

Rain Garden:

- Carolyn and Judy will monitor. Watershed Stewards' Cindy Pizzaketti has offered help.

Tree Planting:

- All plants Carolyn acquired from 10M trees have been planted for riparian buffers.
- 10M Trees now identifying landowners, connecting them with those who plant the trees.

Pollinator Garden:

- Winterized, looking good, too crowded with stuff, despite drought. Needs thinning. Plants could be moved to Rain Garden. Perhaps library could use some PG plants and 10M trees.

Roadside no mow strip: has been prepped and seeded. Grateful for Curt's support.

New Business:

Goals for 2024—brainstorming:

- Maintaining our plan—Judith will provide blank “Proposed Projects” table. Meanwhile, she'll bring strategic plan up to date and to the January meeting for review.
- Retention basins—public needs education about maintaining them for ecological value. (Todd mentions that ALRO's retention basin could use trees that have replaced those that have died—Carolyn will look into it.) Should they have planted conifers for buffer?
- Mowing height ordinance challenge?
- SALDO involvement.
- Fall *Trees from Seeds* project. Perhaps display at Library on how to plant an acorn in a way that keeps it from being eaten. Two potential volunteers: Bill Sprenkle and Keith Prowell.
- Representation at other Flinchbaughs' events at Pollinator Garden—smaller scale than Festival.
- Recruit volunteers—perhaps using social media.
- Education events at one of our gardens, library, other events.
- Continued public education about recycling paper and plastic. (Social media.)
- Sensory Walk—idea perhaps for Library or Horn Farm, if not us.
- Kreutz Creek—monitor how Township affects water quality. Reach out to MWSteward.
- Articles for newsletter.
- *EAC handbook*—Review document Phyllis sent, possibly inform our work.

Member action items before January meeting:

Carolyn will contact Cindy Pizzaketti of Master Watershed Stewards about Rain Garden, other projects.

Carolyn will inquire about Alro tree plantings.

Judith will update strategic plan, create projects grid.

Audrey will check into Kreutz Creek water quality monitoring.

All will review EAC handbook Phyllis will resend.