

HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 11, 2023

6:00 PM

Hellam Township Building

Members Present: Judy Bono, Carolyn Fetrow, Phyllis Koster, Audrey Russin, Todd Trimmer

Guests: Bill Sprenkle

Public Comments: None

Old Business:

- Carolyn reported that the tree planting for this Fall will not happen due to medical issues with the landowner (Adrienne Johnson). We still have trees ordered and will need a way to use them so they don't have to be stored over the winter. Some suggestions were a tree giveaway or finding a different landowner along a stream. Judy Bono had a suggestion for that and will connect the landowner with Carolyn.
- Judy Bono expressed concern over spraying at the Barshinger Field Rain Garden which has killed some of our native plants. We need to find out who's doing that and ask them to stop. Todd thought it is the Rec. Commission who is in charge of maintaining the fields. We also discussed providing plant signs. We will attempt to plant next spring because it has been too dry this year and not be able to water consistently. Todd T suggested we contact Corinna to make sure the money that was allocated can be moved to 2024. Judy also suggested we create a maintenance schedule for the Rain Garden like the Pollinator Garden. All agree.
- Carolyn is getting the parts needed for the Rain Barrel at Barshinger
- Strategic Plan Update: Phyllis noted that one item in the plan that should be updated is the Burn Ordinance publication. We prepared an article for the newsletter which we hoped would appear in the township newsletter in December of 2022. It was rewritten and approved by the BOS. Over the spring and summer, the article publication was postponed due to dry weather and a burn ban in the county. The newsletter never happened

and we aren't sure why. Phyllis will go to the BOS meeting and ask why there hasn't been a newsletter for so long. The same issue applies to the article regarding plastic recycling. There was some discussion on the cost of the newsletter.

- No Mow areas: Phyllis reported that the area at the Horn Farm is doing ok, but is mostly grass because that's what it was before. We agree to wait another year and see what happens since perennials often take longer to develop. Also, the area should be mowed this fall to expose the seed bank.

New Business:

- Lower Windsor Township hearing on October 4, 2023 to get public feedback on the pollution in Kreutz Creek and how Modern Landfill might play a part in that. Carolyn and Judith will attend.
- Open Space Inventory: Our mandate to keep records of open space and track how this land is used or developed is important. This mandate states that the Hellam Township EAC should: "maintain an index of all open space and environmentally sensitive areas, publicly or privately owned, including, but not limited to flood prone areas, swamps, wetlands, and other unique natural areas and features." Our part would be to keep track of "sensitive" areas and we could advise the BOS about protecting those areas. This should also be included in the Township Comprehensive Plan. Todd also raised the question of preserving historic properties and/or buildings.

Open Discussion:

- After Bill Sprenkle arrived, he brought up the question of new roadside plantings and where they might go.
- Find a volunteer to handle our "initiatives", because we are spread too thin.
- Lancaster Conservancy has a new program called the "Habitat Advocate Program". Bill thinks it is excellent and we might be interested in that.
- Phyllis thanked Todd T for the Township providing handouts of our notice on the pollution in Kreutz Creek.