

## HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 8, 2024

6:00 PM

Hellam Township Building

**Members Present:** Judy Bono, Carolyn Fetrow, Ed Hamme, Phyllis Koster, Judith Mueller, Bill Zeigler.

### Old Business:

- *Rain Garden Renovation:* Carolyn contacted Cindy Pizzaketti, and she tells us we need to set a date. Cannot coincide with Earth Day. Other dates in April should work. Judy recommends Cavano's for plant purchasing—more cost effective. Judy and Carolyn will set a date for the Rain Garden work.
- *Tree planting:* locations of fall plantings for listing in Strategic Plan—Ann Kostos owl valley, Koster-Oughton on Accomac, Mueller-Owens on Dark Hollow, Lancaster Conservancy, Fetrow on Accomac, Bill Zeiger on East River Drive.

### New Business:

- *Newsletter:* Judith will contact Corina to ask when it will be sent.
- *BOS Rep:* Judith will ask Corina who our liaison will be now that Todd is gone..
- *Goals from last month's brainstorming*—which ones we'll focus on and thoughts about how to do so:
  - Retention basins—public needs education about maintaining them for ecological value: take advantage of Pollinator Festival & National Night Out to educate the public. Maybe a newsletter article. Judy is skeptical about degree of public interest. Judith will ask Corina if there's a way to find out the number of retention basins in the Twp. Need more info before investing time.
  - Mowing height ordinance challenge? Saldo takes care of the creation of retention basins, but residents get no info about maintaining it. Phyllis will look up whether there is one.
  - SALDO involvement. Bill thinks this is important to resume. We will. Meanwhile, Phyllis will find out about plans for property on Shore Lane that has received variants to build in a wetland in his neighborhood. Carolyn will ask Nedette about EAC 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. Need to do this in timely way so folks can take advantage for planting the following spring, perhaps for riparian buffer work. Phyllis will call the library. (What the heck happened to the plantings in front of former township building?!)
  - Rain barrel painting at Pollinator Festival.
  - Live staking: organize another event?
  - Sensory Walk. Ed will work up a proposal for Horn Farm. Not for EAC.
  - Kreutz Creek water quality: Carolyn will ask Cindy about current state of Kreutz Creek water monitoring. EAC won't take on water testing.
  - Articles for newsletter—ongoing. Feral cats!

- Social Media: Stormwater Article Phyllis found. Something on Feral Cats.
- Plastic Bags: Will draft an ordinance an ordinance for the Twp. Even if we don't have much retail here, such an ordinance could serve as a model for other municipalities,. We might talk about plastic bag usage with Julie Flinchbaugh. Perhaps propose a table on their porch to talk with customers about reusable bags.
- Feral Cats: Draft an ordinance against their feeding much like Columbia Borough's.

**Member action items before February meeting:**

- Judith will ask Corina for the following items:
  - Is there way to find out the number of retention basins in the Twp.
  - When will the newsletter be sent to public?
  - Who will be our BOS representative going forward?
- Phyllis will look into the following:
  - Whether there's a mowing height ordinance.
  - Library interest in potential *Trees from Seeds* program.
  - Plans for property on Shore Lane that has received variants to build in a wetland.
- Carolyn will:
  - Ask Nedette about EAC Saldo involvement.
  - Ask Cindy about current state of Kreutz Creek water monitoring.
- Judy and Carolyn will find a date for the Rain Garden work with MWStewards.