

HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 12, 2024

6:00 PM

Hellam Township Building

Members Present: Judy Bono, Carolyn Fetrow, Ed Hamme, Phyllis Koster, Judith Mueller
Audrey Russin (Advisor to EAC).

BOS Rep: Mike Schillott

Mike Schillot informs the EAC about a survey for residents on perceptions and knowledge of solar power, the responses to which will inform the creation of an ordinance as well as public education about solar energy. He'll be sending the survey to EAC members and encourages us to pass it along to other residents we know.

Old Business:

- Rain Garden—Cindy Pizzaketti has Master Watershed Stewards who would be available during the week to help with work on raingarden. Carolyn will propose April 4.
- Tree planting: One scheduled for Owl Valley Road at Adrian Johnson's property on April 13, afternoon. 10 Million Trees are out of trees for the year, but Carolyn obtained some from someone with surplus. Audrey recommends Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay as possible tree source in the future.
- Trees-from-seeds event at Library: Jennifer is excited about our proposal of an event having to do with trees. She suggests September. Phyllis proposes October 5. Good timing for gathering acorns, etc. Phyllis suggests doing a demonstration with can-planting technique, and then giving out acorns. Judy recommends pawpaw seeds as well, as the event falls a week after Horn Farm's Pawpaw Festival. Bill Sprenkle has volunteered to help with this project and may have seeds to share in the future. Library might also be interested in a tree planting there.
- Strategic Plan: Judith will continue to maintain.
- Monitoring Kreutz Creek: Cindy Pizzaketti informs Carolyn of visible improvement since installation of new wastewater treatment system at Modern Landfill. Thanks to Riverkeepers and Watershed Stewards, Twp. will have information about the water quality when it enters and exits the Twp. EAC will be sure those data reach the BOS. (Need point person for this.)
- EAC decided to table retention basin issue.
- Mowing Ordinance: Phyllis reports that we might want to ask for revision. We will look for info to create an environmentally sound mowing ordinance. Judy will check with Connie Schmotzer for ideas.

New Business:

- Recycling poster—need to create: Phyllis proposes we post one at Barshinger Field. Library too.
- Saldo: At Roundtop, 45 acres of June and Warren Evans's property will be transferred to the Conservancy, and 11 acres will go to Rob & Rene Evans. Seeking subdivision requirements waivers, since waivers in this case indicate no change. No need for EAC comment.
- Pollinator Festival: June 15th. Julie Flinchbaugh wants to confer with EAC in April to plan. Carolyn will contact Master Gardeners in spring.

- Rain barrel painting at Pollinator Festival: Phyllis will contact Curt to make sure we have an extra.
- Need FaceBook point person to send article to Twp. Admin. Judith volunteers.

Member action items before March meeting:

- Carolyn will inform Cindy P. of Raingarden work date, April 4.
- Judy will check with Connie Schmotzer about ideas for mowing ordinance revision.
- Phyllis will contact Curt to make sure Twp has extra rain barrel.
- Judith will update Strategic Plan.