

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9TH, 2020

PRESENT: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Hope Blaythorne, Doug Shaw, Jim Mansfield, Barry Fetterolf, William Birnes, Joe Kubiak (Associate), John Francis (Liaison) and Christine Terranova (Administrator)

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 10th, 2020

Upon a Motion by William Birnes, seconded by Doug Shaw, the meeting minutes for November 10th, 2020 were unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS -- None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Presentation on Bird Town with Stacy Carr-Poole, Executive Director with Bucks County Audubon Society at Honey Hollow

Ms. Carr-Poole talked briefly about the Bucks County Audubon Society and what they represent and their goals in educating and engaging people within the community. She briefly defined the National Audubon Society, the Audubon Mid-Atlantic (formerly Audubon PA) and Bucks County Audubon Society (Chapter).

Ms. Carr-Poole continued her presentation with a discussion about Bird Town, covering the following points:

- Bird-Friendly Habitat Certifications
- PROs (Bird-Friendly Proclamations, Resolutions and Ordinances)
- Education Programs
- Native Plants and Birds Resources
- Demonstration Gardens
- Green Infrastructure

There are currently twelve Bird Towns in the County including Solebury Township. If there is an Earth Day Festival in 2021, there will be an opportunity for residents to certify their properties for the Bird Town program. People that have already been recognized as being certified would not have to apply again to the program.

What are Solebury's next steps? Ms. Blaythorne suggested, which she learned from the Bird Town Summit, if the township would want to facilitate a meadow management workshop, building bluebird nesting boxes, Bird Town walks and barrel gardens for outdoor activities. With the numerous parks in the township, people could be encouraged to do numerous activities related to Bird Town. Another suggestion was to get New Hope Solebury School students involved in some way to connect with Bird Town and the Audubon programs.

How does EAC alert the residents to getting involved if they are interested in building a bluebird box? Mr. Shaw suggested sending out a notice of plan or flyer to show residents how to build a bluebird nesting box or as a reminder to clean out any bluebird boxes that residents may already have on their property.

Chair Allen suggested to consider all varieties of birds, along with the bluebirds, in the township to help enhance their living environment. Chair Allen, Ms. Blaythorne, Mr. Kubiak and Ms. Carr-Poole volunteered to create a subcommittee to discuss how to move forward to becoming more active with Bird Town.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ready for 100 (Jim Mansfield)

Mr. Mansfield stated that the course is continuing and at the last class the topic of discussion was, "Solar Options for Renewable Production". At the December 16th class, they will review rankings. Mr. Mansfield and Mr. Francis will be ranking energy efficiency and energy procurement as a presentation to the class.

Tuscarora Oil Spill (Barry Fetterolf)

Mr. Fetterolf had nothing to report at this time.

Liaison Francis stated Shell has started testing in the area to collect samples that will continue for the next twelve months.

Rules & Regulations (Doug Shaw)

Mr. Shaw stated that he did address the Historical Architectural Review Board on December 1st concerning sustainability and its relationship with the Design Guidelines. It was noted that HARB unanimously declined in making any changes to their guidelines on windows, solar shingles and the reduction of paper in mailings and applications. HARB felt that the reduction of paper would be the supervisors' decision and does not pertain to HARB.

Wild Area Stewardship/Tree City/Bird Town (Hope Blaythorne)

Ms. Blaythorne suggested to invite the watershed committees to the next EAC meeting to discuss ongoing issues within the township. All EAC members agreed to do that for the January meeting.

Mr. Mansfield suggested that EAC look at the Audubon Society and the activities that they offer to the public. Another suggestion is Bowman's Hill that offers a lot of educational classes/tours/seminars.

Plastic Regulation and Recycling (Christy Cheever)

Chair Allen mentioned that he, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Francis met with Senator Steven J. Santarsiero last week.

Mr. Shaw stated that Senator Santarsiero felt that currently contacting and interacting with the State Legislature and your local representatives on the plastic regulation at this point is the only thing that can be done.

It was noted to approach the local food stores to discuss the use of plastic and what changes could possibly be made as a different alternative to plastic.

Ms. Cheever volunteered to draft a letter regarding the reduction of plastics.

Deer Management (Eric Allen)

Chair Allen stated that the Township received three bid requests for the infra-red drone survey, and it has been awarded to J. Kelly, with Raritan Community College. More information on that project will be presented at a later date.

Cold-Tar-Based Sealcoat (Barry Fetterolf)

Mr. Fetterolf stated that the Township Manager has posted information on the website concerning cold-tar-based sealcoats.

Mr. Kubiak has volunteered to draft a letter for homeowner associations to distribute to their residents on the concerns of cold-tar-based sealcoats.

New Hope Solebury Quarry (Liaison John Francis)

It was noted that there was no further information on the purchase of the property.

Mr. Francis stated that another sinkhole has been discovered on the Solebury School property but has been satisfactorily remediated at this time.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Chair Allen adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Christine Terranova
EAC Administrator
Solebury Township