

Environmental Advisory Council

March 8, 2022– 7:00 PM

ZOOM Videoconference

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- a. Eric Allen called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

The following persons were in attendance: Eric Allen (Chair), Christy Cheever (Vice Chair), Jim Mansfield, Barry Fetterolf, Phil Getty, Robert McEwan (Board Supervisor) and Jean Weiss (Administrator). Absent: Hope Blaythorne, John Francis (Board Liaison), Debra McFadden (Administrator).

II. Approval of the February 8, 2022 Minutes

MOTION: Eric Allen made a motion to approve the February 8, 2022 Minutes. Phil Getty called for a revision to distinguish Audubon as Bucks County Audubon Society. Eric Allen called for the approval of the February 8, 2022 Minutes with revision. Barry Fetterolf seconded the motion. The motion carried a unanimous vote.

III. Announcements

- a. There were no new announcements.

IV. New Business

- a. Eric Allen led the discussion on the Earth Day Event, Saturday, April 9, 2022 held at the Bucks County Audubon Society from 10 am to 3 pm since it will be before the next EAC meeting. Christy Cheever summarized activities such as the Birdtown Program, ideas for community involvement on how to participate as a bird friendly habitant, an EAC monthly newsletter. It was decided that the EAC table would provide handouts concerning 5 items: Eric Allen - Deer Management and a Resident / EAC information sheet; Christy Cheever- Recyclables (and help with Birdtown); Jim Mansfield - Climate Change and Hope Blaythorne -Birdtown. Jim Mansfield to coordinate with John Francis for the township sign for the table and Phil Getty to bring a pop-up canopy.
- b. Barry Fetterolf spoke of composting and presented an idea on hay bale gardening at Aquetong Spring Park. Barry Fetterolf will forward an article on this technique to the EAC members for review. It was estimated that if they purchased 4 or 5 bales of hay at roughly \$7 per bale and the other miscellaneous items, it would

cost under \$100 for this effort to bring awareness to this organic gardening technique to the residents. Eric Allen liked the idea and commented that other EAC's in the area are involved in a lot of gardening activities and this EAC is not. Eric Allen added that it seems with a low amount of effort this could be accomplished and also add publicity to the EAC. Robert McEwan suggested to contact Park & Rec to get input on the idea. Barry Fetterolf is meeting with Dan Dupont from Park and Rec and will discuss the idea with him and will get back to the EAC. Phil Getty added that Bucks County Audubon Society has a community garden that they would like to expand and if the EAC would like to enter into a joint venture with them it is an opportunity.

V. Discussion Items

a. Ready for 100 Clean Energy Initiative

- i. Jim Mansfield reported that the Ready for 100 Clean Energy Planning Group had 3 Zoom meetings since the last EAC meeting and the topics were: Plethora of Environmental Tools, How to Create Outreach Programs to Educate and Motivate the Community and Energy Planning with one of their participants, Jim Fraley from West Chester, on a comprehensive website to include 4 counties regarding climate change. Jim Mansfield to send out the link.
- ii. Jim Mansfield mentioned that he and John Francis worked on a draft on a heat pump article and were going to post to the website. Phil Getty brought to the attention of the EAC that the freon in current heat pumps has a GWP (Global Warming Potential). Heat Pumps offered at the beginning of 2024 will have a new refrigerant, R454B, which will have less of an impact on global warming.

b. Wild Area Stewardship /Tree Town / Birdtown

- i. Hope Blaythorne was not present for the report.

c. Aquetong Spring Park

- i. Barry Fetterolf reported that the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee's recommendation was that the EAC be responsible for the stream and that Park and Rec would be responsible for everything else at the park.
- ii. Barry Fetterolf presented the Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee with an idea of introducing children to fly fishing called "hookless fly fishing" in which children would experience the essence of catching a fish without harming the

fish or the stream. The committee responded that since this involved the water it would be up to the EAC to take on Barry's idea. Eric Allen commented that this could be another opportunity to add to the EAC brand. Barry Fetterolf to contact the head of Trout Unlimited to see if there is interest and will discuss with Dan Dupont from Park and Rec.

- iii. Barry Fetterolf presented the idea of possibly stocking the township portion of the Cuttalossa Creek with trout.

d. Deer Management

- i. Eric Allen reported that the March 2, 2022 update from Nate Spence was that the team met for a total of 11 nights, representing 22 % of the hunting with 270 deer culled which is 27% of the goal. Eric Allen said the program is running ahead as was reported last month.
- ii. Eric Allen added that the drone survey began on February 28, 2022 by Jay Kelly of Raritan Community College to measure the deer population. Phil Getty asked why the drone survey is conducted in the middle of the hunting. Eric Allen explained that the culling program runs until the middle of April and once the foliage is out it is almost impossible to get an accurate count.

e. Bag Drive and Plastic Bag Incentive

- i. Christy Cheever led the discussion on the Plastic Bag Ordinance that was forwarded to John Francis on with final edits. Christy Cheever will follow up with John Francis.
- ii. Phil Getty informed the EAC that the Giant Food Market has a drop off box for plastic bags. Phil Getty noted that the township might look into getting one of these boxes as approximately 200,000 bags collected can make a park bench- an EAC park bench. Phil Getty will contact Terra Cycle to see if the township could get a box to recycle plastic bags and also, information on how it works.
- iii. Phil Getty suggested asking the different groups that do the street clean up to separate the plastic items and creating an inventory list on items collected.
- iv. Christy Cheever put a proposal together for the bag purchase with an investment of \$275 for 100 bags. Robert McEwan suggested to contact Dudley Rice of Park and Rec before purchasing the bags due to his experience with swag. Phil Getty suggested the bags be the size of a typical grocery bag and

Christy Cheever confirmed that they will be that size. Also, the bags should be made from recycled material and should be quality natural fiber.

f. EAC Website / Social Media

- i. Jim Mansfield reported that he forwarded all of the water information that he and Robert McEwan compiled to Michele Blood on February 15, 2022 to add to the website.

VI. Public Comment

- a. No Public Comment.

VII. Adjournment

- a. **MOTION: Barry Fetterolf made a motion at 8: 13 pm to adjourn the March 8, 2022 meeting. Phil Getty seconded the motion. The motion carried a unanimous vote.**

Respectively submitted,

Debra McFadden