

West Pikeland Township
Environmental Advisory Council

10/1/2020 Meeting Minutes

Attending: John Matthews (via phone), Warren Fox, Linda Reichert, Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Glenn Wenger, Donna Switzer and Rich Pomeroy

- 1) Call to order: 9:03 AM
- 2) Minutes from September 3, 2020 were approved.
- 3) WPT Residents Debra Utterback, Karen Mifsud (WPT BOS Member) and Joe Romano attended the meeting. No public comment
- 4) Old business.
 - Donna organized a Paper Shredding Event for WPT Residents.
 - a) It will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the WPT Building parking lot. Once the truck is full, it will leave.
 - b) It will cost \$600.00 and WPT will pay for the event..
 - c) We will need volunteers to help at the event.
 - d) WPT EAC will have a table at the event. It will be a good opportunity to get a RF100 surveys out to the residents, hand out a newsletter and provide information on Glenn's new program converting grass lawns to native habitats.
 - e) Karen Misfud will contact Melissa (the new communications employee for WPT) to send out the event's information to WPT residents. Chesco Alert is one way to get the information out to the residents.
 - f) The Chester Springs Library would like to piggyback a fund raiser for the library (they are raising money to repair their roof). They are planning on serving donuts and cider for a donation. It's important that they follow COVID-19 guidelines.
 - Riparian Buffer presentation by guest speakers Vicki Laubach (Executive Director of Green Valleys Watershed Assoc). and Ed Theurkauf (of Theurkauf Planning and Design)
 - a) Possible WPT zoning change of riparian buffer from 100ft to 150ft on our waterways.
 - b) WPT EAC endorses this zoning change.
 - c) Look at the Phoenixville Regional Plan to see what is included for riparian buffers.
 - d) Interested in having Vicki Laubach at Green Valley put together a video, which could be put on WPT EAC Website and Facebook page to educate WPT Residents.
 - e) Naming streams in our township. Possible buy in of the residents that have waterways running through their properties.
 - Phoenixville Regional Planning Group and VPP Grant (Grant for Renewable Energy development in a community)
 - a) WVT, EPT and Schuylkill Township all have approval for the VPP Grant. WPT did not apply for this round.
 - b) WPT EAC letter of endorsement for the VPP Grant has a possibility of allowing WPT (and Charlestown and Phoenixville) into the grant after the fact. This can only happen if WPT BOS approve to pay their share, which would then increase the funding to work with these additional communities.
 - Glenn and his initiative- Restore mowed lawns to natural habitats (including riparian buffers)
 - a) Contacted Melissa at WPT. Information is now on WPT EAC website and Facebook to inform WPT residents.

- b) Glenn also put the information on the App Nextdoor, which is a regional App where one can buy, sell and talk locally. It does cover a broad area including Willistown, WPT and all the way to Phoenixville.
 - c) Glenn “heard” back from 35 people. Including a Willistown resident who said that their community has instituted a similar program. An East Pikeland resident said they would also like to start a program in their community.
 - d) Glenn met with the Willistown resident, the East Pike resident and a Ecology college student and toured lawns in Willistown that have converted grass lawns to natural habitats.
 - e) Glenn contacted Catherine Renzi of Yellow Springs Farm to discuss a strategy
 - f) It was recommended to take before and after pictures of the transformed lawns.
 - g) Maybe also disseminate information on the program through the Chester Springs library. Maybe get information on their newsletter, which is sent out via email.
 - RF100
 - a) The WPT BOS meeting on September 21, 2020 had robust participation from WPT residents.
 - b) The RF100 sub-committee will table the program until the WPT Comprehensive Plan is approved by the WPT BOS.
 - c) The title “RF100” will be rebranded so that Sierra Club is not associated with the new name. WVT and Charlestown Township have both changed the name also to dissociate their program from the Sierra Club.
 - d) As WPT moves forward with the Phoenixville Regional Plan, we want our plan to complement the regional plan.
- 5) New Business:
- Meeting time change: WPT EAC members approved a time and day change for meetings. They will now be held the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM. The new time will begin December 1, 2020. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Linda Reichart will host the meetings. John will let Jim at WPT know about the change.
 - WPT EAC Election Day Table- John will “man” the table. We will have the newsletter to hand out to the exiting residents.
 - WPT EAC budget- We can have between \$500-1,000.00. Will need to come up with why we need \$1000.00. Education, Printing and Guest Speakers. Calendar year.
 - Newsletter- Submit articles to Donna
- 6) Meeting Adjourned 9:57 AM (Next meeting November 5, 2020 at Pine Creek Pavillion- weather permitting)

Action Items:

- 1) Submit articles to Donna for WPT EAC Newsletter.
- 2) John- Contact Vicki Laubach at Green Valley. Ask her if they could put together a short video on the importance of riparian buffers to our waterways.
- 3) John- Let Jim Wendelgass at WPT know about the meeting change.