

West Pikeland Township

Environmental Advisory Council

7/13/2021 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: John Matthews, Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Glenn Wenger, Donna Switzer and Rich Pomeroy (not present: Linda Reichert). Public: Carin Mifsud, Sarah Newman

- 1) Call to order: 7:39 PM
- 2) Agenda was approved
- 3) Minutes from June 1, 2021 were approved.
- 4) Public comment
 - a) Glenn: Reduce Pesticide use in WPT- he will meet with his township consortium for ideas. Cannot be more restrictive than the state guidelines for pesticide use. Need to focus on educating and awareness to the public. Carin checked and the township does not use any pesticides on its properties. Sarah suggested we look at resources like Penn State Extension, PA Soil Coalition and Beyond Pesticides.
- 5) Old business.
 - a) Shredding Event- Donna: June 12, 9-12. There were 138 cars that dropped off 3.19 tons of paper. 1/3 more cars than last year about the same amount of paper. 4 residents got their COVID vaccine. It was suggested that the event be held twice a year. Bryan will present it to the BOS at the next meeting. Need approval for \$300.00. Donna will set up the next Paper Drive for November.
 - b) Will address at the next meeting.
 - c) Will address at the next meeting.
 - d) Pollinator Garden: Bryan and Glenn talked with Nancy and Stephanie at the Chester Springs Library to discuss a 12ft x 10ft spot for a starter garden. Could also get water barrels for the downspouts for the renewable aspect. Ask the BOS at next meeting for \$400.00 for the project. Propose a cleanup day for the library grounds- a joint WPT EAC and Library Board venture perhaps. Need to check with Historic Yellow Springs since they own the property. Drain issues need to be resolved. Need signs up to explain the garden. Motion was approved to ask the BOS for \$400.00 for this project. On a side note: Carin asked the EAC to come up with ideas on what to do with the bare space that will be created when the barn will possibly be moved from Pine Creek Park to Walnut Rd. Park. An apple orchard was a possible solution.
 - e) Adopt-a-Highway Program- Bryan: Talked with a new person at Chester County who can move our application along.
 - f) WPT Solar Ordinance Draft: Bryan is working on the draft to give to the consultant (once hired) for the consultant can give us recommendations. He will consult the Sierra Club for guidance in writing up the draft.
 - g) PACEA Update: John and Bryan- One applicant for the consultant position and county will review it. There was a lot of interest, but not a lot of applicants. This is a work in progress.
- 6) New Business:
 - a) Reaching out to state senators and representatives for event publicity: Sarah- Use them as a resource to publicize our events and they like to know what we are doing. They use Facebook and other social media to get the word out.
 - b) Return on Environment (ROE) fact sheet: John- Jeanne Ortez (we know her thru our involvement our with the Audubon Society program and native plants along the streams in our township) is heading up this program. WPT has an ROE and the information is new and improved since it was first introduced. Need to get this information out to WPT residents.

John will follow up with the library to possibly put together a community event to get this information out to the residents. Add this back to the WPT EAC webpage. It was approved by the Council to involve us in this project by getting the information out to the residents.

- c) Electric Car Charging Station Rebate Program: Brian- Passed information onto Charlie and Jim about the rebate program. Waiting to hear back from Jim. Bryan will forward the info onto Carin for the upcoming agenda for the BOS.
- d) 2022 WPT EAC Budget possible use- Yearly budget is \$1500.00 and we will still have a lot left in our budget this year after the pollinator garden. John suggested to use the remaining money in the account to buy trees to plant around the township like Pine Creek Park or Walnut Lane Park. John will propose this idea at the next WPT Parks and Rec meeting. Carin will coordinate with Jim to purchase deer guards for the trees. Sarah suggested to apply for grants thru 10 million trees. She also suggested to reach out to Water Stewards Group to help out with this project. Sarah will check with her coordinator.
- 7) Glenn wanted to let the group know that Ted Tacomis suddenly died. He was very involved in WPT.
- 8) Adjourn 8:39 PM

Action Items:

- 1) Donna- Set up November Paper Drive.
- 2) Glenn- Figure out total budget for the pollinator garden
- 3) John- Contact Jeanne Ortez about presenting the new and improved ROE at the library to educate the community.
- 4) John- Contact Melissa to add the new ROE information to the website.
- 5) Bryan- Forward Electric Car Rebate Program to Carin for BOS agenda.
- 6) John-Bring up at the next Parks and Rec meeting about planting trees at the parks.
- 7) Sarah- Check with her water steward coordinator about helping out with the tree planting.