West Pikeland Township

Environmental Advisory Council

1/10/2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Sarah Newman, Linda Reichart, Rich Pomeroy (via phone) and John Matthews. Public attendance-Kathy Hughes, Carin Misfud, Brian Lacey and Rita Lacey

1. Call to order: 7:32 PM
2. Agenda was approved
3. Minutes from December 6, 2022 were approved.
4. Mulch piles at Pine Creek Park- Kathy moved mulch and there is not too much left. WPT Public Works moved two piles. Parks and Rec want the rest of the mulch for their Frisbee Golf Course. Linda and Rich (weather permitting) will move mulch this Saturday. East Pikeland wants to get rid of their mulch so call them if you want any. 4 Season’s tree plantings are not doing very well. Sarah will contact them to see if they would like WPT EAC to maintain them. Right now Parks and Rec are clearing paths for the disc golf course.
5. Old Business
6. Possible collaboration with WPT Land Trust and the 50+ acre parcel- Janet: Mike will be at the February Meeting to discuss this project with us. He will gather information on the plot and grants associated with this parcel/Trust.
7. VPP Grant Update- John: Schuylkill, East Pikeland and WPT are behind West Vincent in these preparations. We need to look at PECO and WPT municipal energy usage- revisit the audit. Mike Connally is a solar engineer and has volunteered to help with this part of the grant for WPT. The consultant (Practical Energy Solutions) did their own audit and suggested improvements. The Grant report for WPT has not been approved since we still need public comment and the stakeholder meeting. A joint stakeholders meeting with Schuylkill and EPT will be planned for mid February. After this meeting, the summary will be presented to WPT BOS. Stakeholders only at the meeting. Need to get the pre-report to the stakeholders before the meeting. A list of the stakeholders thus far will be emailed out. Bryan will take care of this. Dr. Bright is the BOS liaison for the VPP Grant. January 12th, 2023 is the next joint VPP Grant Meeting.
8. New Business:
9. Election of EAC 2023 Officers: Chair is Bryan for the next two years. Linda is still Vice Chair and Janet is the secretary.
10. Spring Tree Planting Maintenance- Sarah: Sarah has all the materials to maintain the trees. 1) The tubes will be removed from around the shrubs and cages will be assembled and put up around the shrubs. Will be getting from Tractor Supply 100 ft roll of 5 Ft fencing. 2) Straightening of the tubes around the trees. 3) When to do this? Sarah is planting trees at Montgomery School on Earth Day so cannot do it then. Sarah will come up with a date and will first reach out to Drishti USA to see if they would like to help with this. They were great help at the plantings and wanted to be contacted again for future projects. 4)Sarah was going to look into purchasing a micro-rhizome powder to apply to the plantings.
11. 2023 Topics:
12. Rich- As per the EAC Ordinances- He would like to plan outings to have the Council walk and check out the public trails in WPT. See if any improvements could be made. Barbara has applied for Grants to help with park improvements. Multiple grants that add up to at least $40,000, which could be used for Foot Trails. Need to involve Parks and Rec and EAC.
13. Linda- Renewable Energy- Summarize the new benefits there are out there from the government (incentives and rebates) Linda will contact Rachel Griffith, who is the Chester County Sustainability Director, to invite her to present on the benefits to the community. Bryan volunteered to invite people over to his house to discuss his Solar Energy set-up. Schedule this for late May or early June at Pine Creek Park Pavilion
14. Janet- Bird Conservation Presentation. Invite Holly Merker to present on her research and how to make our yards attractive to birds. Schedule for the Fall. It was also mentioned that Welkinweir, via Green Valleys Watershed Assoc., is a wonderful place to go to observe migrating birds.
15. Bryan- Highway Cleanups- Will schedule two, Spring and Fall, events.
16. Bryan and Mike Leader- would like to organize a WPT Sustainability Festival/Fair. Have it on Art School Road similar to the set up for the 300 year celebration for HYS. Have local sustainability vendors and craft/art vendors along with food and entertainment. Would like to start the conversation to get this going.
17. John- Invasive Removal in HYS in collaboration with 4 seasons. Design it so that it falls into the National Homegrown Park Initiative.
18. Next meeting is Feb. 7, 2023
19. Adjourn 8:38 PM

Action Items:

1. Sarah- Contact 4 Seasons to see if they want us to maintain their tree plantings in Pine Creek Park.
2. Bryan- VPP Grant- Set up a Stakeholders meeting in February and provide them with the preliminary report before the meeting. Also email out to the EAC the list of Stakeholders thus far.
3. Sarah- Set up a date for maintenance of the Pine Creek Tree Plantings. Contact Drishti USA to see if they would like to volunteer for this activity.
4. Sarah- Check out and possibly order the Micro-rhizome powder for the tree plantings.
5. Linda- Contact Rachel Griffith (CC Sustainability Director) to schedule a presentation on Gov’t rebates and incentives to go renewable.
6. Janet- Contact Holly Merker to set up a seminar presentation on birds in the Fall.