

# EAC May 24th 2023- Minutes

7 PM Free Library of Springfield Township

## Attending

- Committee & Associates:
  - Stephen, Brandon, Aaron, Martin, Rich, Desiree, Peter, Pat, Joy, Zeta
  - Patrick E.
- Guests:
  - John Naghski. - Willow Grove Ave - found us searching for Shade Tree, looking at trees in Mermaid being watered and deer damage is a concern. Also has trees he would like to donate. Single use plastic as well!!!
  - Chris Weth
  - Alexandra Klinger
  - Cynthia Krelick

## WELCOME TO MEMBERS & GUESTS

- Brandon - local resident wanting to start a friends of Mermaid Park to help w/ the park (Christina). There might also be a defunct 501c3 for Mermaid park.

## ATTENDANCE & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Tabled for next month.

RESIGNATION OF C. RICHTER – Consider acceptance of a resignation letter and possible recommendation to the

Board of Commissioners for a replacement to fill the EAC vacancy.

- Motioned and approved , requesting BoC to advertise and fill the vacancy
- Motioned and approved (with one opposed) to recommend associate member Martin for consideration to fill the full membership on the EAC committee .

## GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

COMMUNICATION/OUTREACH – Review any communications received by or disseminated from the EAC. The

Commission will also consider reassigning social media/public relations responsibilities.

- Celia volunteered to fill the role through August before she goes off to school.

OLD BUSINESS:

Native Plant Sale – review the outcome of the Native Plant Sale and consider authorization of a reimbursement.

- Was a spectacular success. People were lining up 20 minutes before the sale started. Sold out in 36 minutes.
- 130 plants. \$6 profit. Spent \$598 on plants. \$150 for Zeta. Sign made from CVS for \$40. Total of \$788.
- Bulk of the people were at the beginning and a trickle after they sold out.
- Agreement to do it again next year. Target Sat. before mother's day is key.
- Recommendations for next year:
  - Start talking to growers now. Suggestion to contact one in Mt. Airy.
  - Double it for each year.
  - Put it on the agenda for the June meeting to start planning.
  - Take the attendees that we had and contact them with a follow-up survey (Stephen volunteer)

Renewable Springfield – receive an update on transitioning municipal fleet and facilities.

- Office Fantree conversation w/ Joy - loves the hybrid vehicle.
- Discussed the results of the energy audit implementation for the municipal campus. Will be presented to the BoC June meeting.
- RF100 Montco has asked to present on this and the fleet data. Assuming we can get the data cleansed. Fleet vehicles change numbers year on year making it a challenge. Should be able to reconcile w/ VIN.
- Continued discussions w/ School District on having a campus audit done and also they are engaged to get a grant for an electric school bus. School district is doing a demand response program in getting savings from energy management. Township municipal campus is too small for that program.

- Steve Clark on the Haverford EAC. Created the heat maps for us in 2019 which lead to us doing the energy audit. Has run a webinar on heat pumps.
  - He has volunteered to do the webinar for us via zoom or live stream.
  - Motion to host a regional webinar on heat pumps; approved Stephen and Joy to coordinate getting that setup.
  - Advertise - via Rep. Nelson and Sen. Haywood.

Audience : Mentioned Montco Planning Commission that had offered up coming in person to present the comprehensive plan. They are doing an update to the comprehensive plan, calling it Montco 2050.

- Ask the BoC to offer up Springfield Township to be a site for discussing the Moncto 2050 comprehensive plan.
- Martin will draft letter to board and work w/ Aaron.

SDST Partnership – hear an update from the High School Sustainability Club.

- No update this month.

Plastic Bag Ban – discuss the upcoming June 27 educational event and advocacy efforts.

- Open forum to discuss single-use plastics. Faran from Penn Env.
- Greta from Cheltenham EAC to discuss the ordinance they passed.
- Springfield Township EAC do the intros. Followed by Faran and Greta. Close w/ Springfield township.
- Discussion around who to advertise this through: RF100, EAC's, State Rep and Sen offices, as well as the township and our FB pages and such. Rotary to get the business and some flyers. Get it out through the school district as well.

Plan Updates – Native Pollinator Garden, Landscape Fleet Demo, June board presentation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Practical Sustainability – review the draft educational materials for the June 7 event.

Electrification of Landscaping Equipment – discuss interest in working on a proposal /education for electric landscaping equipment in the Township.

- June 14th - EAC and Township Public Works and BoC - Toro demo. This is not open to the public b/c its commercial grade equipment.
- EAC - Next steps on educating the public on electrifying residential lawn equipment; target Fall to present it. See if we could get Toro, Ego, and other providers to demo the residential providers.

Meadow Promotion/Preservation – discuss efforts that the EAC can take to promote the naturalization and preservation of meadows in the Township.

- Gail Farmer - resident in N. College Ave. Raised this as a resident (but also a Director of Wissahickon Trails). Part of a number of residents who about the Carson Valley Property. Township currently maintains that property by mowing it regularly. Its been called "Carson Field". Her request is could we look to mow less often and turn it into a meadow and maintain it as such. Neighbors have reached out to PA Env. Council (Susan Myeroff) and a member of the Shade Tree commission has asked Morris Arboretum to come and talk with them.
- Would like to bring this up as a topic for discussion.
- Martin volunteered to drive this forward with Desiree and Joy.
- Gails letter will be forwarded to EAC members.

Bird Friendly Yards – discuss getting a speaker for a presentation open to public.

- Work on what the event looks like.

## TOWNSHIP UPDATE/QUESTIONS

### GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT/OPEN FORUM

- Township recycling rate is decreasing. Barely above 70%, and area of concern. Might want to see about how to do that. Waste is decreasing as well (by weight)
- Appt. of Brendon May to fill Ward 7 commissioner vacancy.
- Modified our employee holiday schedule and follow federal lead and recognize Juneteenth as a holiday.
- Monday pick-ups no longer need to wait a week for pickup of recyclables. Demonstration program.
- Memorial day parade - American Legion post sponsoring it.
- Township will be observing summer hours on Fridays.

## ADJOURNMENT

### UPCOMING EAC EVENTS

June 7, 2023 (7:00-9:00 PM) – Practical Sustainability: A Choose Your Own Guide

June 12, 2023 (7:00 PM) – EAC Presentation on Twp. Energy Savings to the Commissioners

Please note, EAC agendas are subject to change without notice.

June 27, 2023 (7:00 – 9:00 PM) – Single-Use Plastics and You: A Community Discussion

June 28, 2023 (7:00 – 9:00 PM) – June EAC Meeting

### Actions

- Follow-up with John N. about his interest on donating trees.
- Aaron to follow-up w/ Celia.
- Start planning for Native plants sale in June of this year for next year.