



**Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Hybrid Zoom/In-Person Meeting
April 6, 2022**

- 1. Call To Order, Pledge Of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:34pm. Present were: Barbara Brown, Member; Ivy Ross, Vice Chairman; Fred Suffian, Chairman; Guy Powell, Member; Fred Gaines, Supervisor; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Marilyn Laurelli, Member; Ruth Schemm, Supervisor; Joanne Mancini, Member; Scott Vogin, Bike and Hike Liaison; Vinobha Pannerselvam, Member; Amy Crasto, Member.

Mr. Suffian led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 2. Public Comment:**

Jake Kornegay, Public; Michael Dempsey, public; Sheryl Slopey, Public; Zijun Xu, Public.

Mr. Dempsey thanked the EAC for all its work on establishing the township trails and especially Ms. Ross for her tireless efforts. Mr. Dempsey also stated that he was not sure who to discuss trail signage at Stump Road.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Weremeychik, page 2 item "d" trail is misspelled and there is a missing comma from \$5,000

Ms. Brown motioned to approve minutes as amended.

Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

- 4. Business:**

- a. Discussion of EAC Goals and Ordinance - Group**

Mr. Suffian stated that all members were emailed two different drafts but received no actionable comments. Mr. Suffian solicited any final comments from the group prior to finalizing the goals.

Mr. Suffian then read the ordinance to the members.

Ms. Ross made a motion to adopt the EAC goals and action plan for 2022.

Ms. Brown seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

- b. PHS Spring Planting - Mr. Suffian**

Mr. Suffian stated the PA Horticulture Society sent a letter that a reservation needs to be made to pick up the trees.

Ms. Ross stated that the trees will be planted on the April 23rd (with a rain date of April 24th) with the Rotary taking the lead on performing the planting with the EAC providing oversight.

Ms. Ross stated that the holes will begin being dug at 8:00am.

Ms. Brown stated that she placed flags where the trees are supposed to go.

Ms. Ross stated that she needs to ask Public Works to make sure there is no need for a PA-1 call.

Mr. Suffian stated that 3 yards of mulch will be required.

Ms. Ross stated that the cost was \$770 for the three trees.

c. Paw Paw Planting - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian stated that we were informed that the trees will not be shipped this week.

The ground is still frozen in Michigan where the trees are and they cannot be dug up yet.

Mr. Suffian stated that the end of the month would be a possible (Saturday 4/30).

Mr. Suffian believes it will only take a few minutes per tree and that there are 25 trees to be planted. The entire event should only require a few hours if several volunteers are available.

d. Pollinator Garden at Swim Club - Ms. Brown

Ms. Brown stated that there are 28 people with 2 months remaining.

Ms. Brown asked if the game room would be large enough to accommodate that number of people.

Ms. Ross suggested using the picnic tables outside of the room.

Mr. Suffian suggested cutting off the sign-up and telling people that we are "full".

Ms. Brown stated that the date for the event is 6/4 at 1:00pm.

e. Farmers Market Pollinator Sale - Ms. Brown

Ms. Ross stated that she and Ms. Brown discussed this and decided that with the number of people coming to the event on 6/4 that it would be better to use the plugs for the event instead of at a booth at the farmers market.

Ms. Ross asked the group their thoughts.

Several members stated that they felt this was okay.

Ms. Ross stated that she never told the farmers market that we would definitely be there.

f. Weisel Preserve Spring Planting - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that we have two grants (PECO green region and XXXX) to plant 49 trees and 30 shrubs. This was put out to bid and came back much lower than expected.

Arc Wild was the lowest bid (at \$17,000 and were about \$5,000 lower than the next lowest bid). The Township Engineer is going to ask the Supervisors to accept the bid.

Arc Wild has been used before and come highly recommended.

Ms. Ross stated that since the bid came in so low we are allowed to go above the limit by another 15% and we either spend it or lose it so we are getting more than 49 trees and 30 shrubs.

Ms. Ross stated that we do not have a date for this planting yet.

Mr. Weremeychik asked if we increase the number of plants will the price go up.

Ms. Ross stated that it would increase costs but that all of the costs will be taken into consideration prior to entering into a contract with Arc Wild and that there is money in the grant.

Ms. Ross stated that we may want to use them for future native plant orders because of their pricing.

g. Day of Community Service - Group

Ms. Ross stated that we are going to make this year more condensed starting at 9:00am and going only until 12:00pm.

Ms. Ross also stated that she will not ask for food because of Covid.

Ms. Ross stated that Wawa has donated 100 water bottles.

Ms. Ross put in a request for \$200 from Wegmans for food for the EAC and adult volunteers. Since this is a much smaller event there is no need to feed the volunteers.

Ms. Ross asked Mr. Pannerselvam if he could create a Sign-Up Genius to get a better idea of how many volunteers we are going to have so we can better plan the event.

Ms. Ross asked Mr. Xu about the clean-ups that he had e-mailed to the members earlier in the week.

Ms. Ross is going to ask the Bike and Hike committee if they would be willing to do some trail clean up as part of Community Day.

Mr. Pannerselvam asked if we have the list of projects (to be added to the Sign-Up Genius).

Ms. Brown stated we would concentrate on 3 projects - pollinator garden, rain garden, and Sara's Lane basin cleanup.

Mr. Pannerselvam stated that the Bradford Dam needs to be cleaned up.

Ms. Ross stated that she agreed with Mr. Pannerselvam.

Mr. Suffian suggested putting the Sign-Up Genius on the township website.

Ms. Ross asked everyone to block out 5/21 with a rain date of 5/22 because we need every EAC member to assist.

h. Single Use Plastic Bags - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian stated that he discovered that the ban on local municipalities banning plastics expired last year and the state legislature did not re-enact the ban. Therefore, local municipalities are now allowed to ban single-use plastics.

Mr. Gaines stated that he has the township solicitor looking at this because he saw that this applies to home-rule townships only and Warrington is not a home-rule township.

Mr. Suffian stated that he would like to get the EAC to recommend to the BOS to take up the ban.

Mr. Gaines stated that this would be under "old business" because this was discussed last year.

Mr. Suffian made a motion to have the BOS ban the use of single use plastics in the township.

Ms. Brown seconded.

All were in favor.

i. Climate Action Plan Update - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian stated that the committee is meeting weekly to move forward with the climate action plan.

Completed inventory and are wrapping up the survey.

Mr. Suffian stated that they will be giving a presentation on solar energy to the BOS at the end of the month of April.

Mr. Gaines stated that the meeting was cancelled and that the presentation will need to be rescheduled.

Mr. Suffian stated that Mr. Edwards from Exact Solar will be providing one additional slide that was not on the presentation that was given to the EAC--that of a power purchase agreement (PPA). That way there would be two different financing options. The advantage of the PPA is that the township would not have to take out a bond.

Mr. Suffian stated that he would be giving the presentation.

Mr. Suffian read the top 4 categories of questions.

86% of respondents stated that they were interested/excited in electric cars.

83% of respondents stated they were interested in composting.

86% of respondents were interested in growing their own food or purchasing local produce.

77% of respondents were interested in getting an energy audit for their home.

76% of respondents were interested in changing their behavior to save energy.

46% said the biggest weather threat was tornados/wind

38% said the biggest weather threat was rain/water

Priorities for the township - acquiring open space should be the #1 priority

The #2 priority was mitigating weather issues.

Mr. Suffian stated that the committee is still drafting an action plan and that a brief presentation of the plan may be given sometime in May.

j. Stream Monitoring - Ms. Schemm

Ms. Schemm discussed a new initiative regarding stream monitoring.

Ms. Schemm stated that it would be helpful to get residents to assist with stream monitoring to help monitor and protect the wetlands in the township.

Ms. Ross stated that there are grants that will help promote stream monitoring.

k. Open Space Update - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that different land holders and easements are still being discussed.

Ms. Ross stated that there is an application for meadows that includes maintenance.

Ms. Ross stated that a referendum would be needed for additional funds and that the committee would be discussing that at their next meeting.

Mr. Gaines stated that an addition to the earned income tax would be another means of obtaining funds. He also stated that a real estate tax dedicated to open space could be considered in addition to a referendum.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

Ms. Brown stated that we need to put up no mow signs at Bradford Dam. Mr. Suffian asked why. Ms. Brown responded that we need to take every step to remind the county to not mow. Mr. Pannerselvam stated that there are some no mow signs and that we need to have a good understanding with county rather than no mow signs.

Mr. Pannerselvam showed a map of all the Bluebird houses in the township. Ms. Ross asked if Mr. Pannerselvam could write an article about the Bluebird house map. Mr. Suffian stated that Mr. Pannerselvam shared the map on 3/12 through e-mail.

Ms. Ross stated that the three benches have been ordered.

6. ADJOURN

Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Brown seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Baratz
EAC Secretary