



**Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

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

- 1. Call To Order, Pledge Of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:31pm. Present were: Barbara Brown, Member; Fred Suffian, Chairman; Guy Powell, Member; Fred Gaines, Supervisor; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Marilyn Laurelli, Member; Ruth Schemm, Supervisor; Scott Vogin, Bike and Hike Liason; Jake Kornegay, Member; Steve Palimiri, Member.

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

- 2. Public Comment:**

The following members of the public were present: Drew Soltys, Bonnie Stetson, Maya Tokmajian, Zijun Xu.

There was no public comment.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Brown to approve minutes.

Mr. Palimiri seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

- 4. Business:**

- a. F.I.S.H. Grant - Ms. Schemm**

Ms. Schemm stated that this is a \$5,000 grant that Ivy acquired to get some equipment to help families learn about streams. Equipment includes microscopes, stream water quality.

Ms. Schemm mentioned how important it is to monitor stream quality.

Ms. Schemm stated that Warrington has a ribbon of waterways in the township.

- b. Lower Nike Edible Forest - Mr. Suffian**

Mr. Suffian reported that during community service day we planted 15 - 20 paw paw trees in the edible forest portion of Lower Nike park. This part of the trail attempts to keep the invasive species under control by planting natural species.

Mr. Suffian also stated that there is another section from Morning Walk to IPW park.

Mr. Suffian reported that Indigenous Ingenuities was hired to regain control of the Lower Nike site. Then the EAC will take on the maintenance of the area.

Mr. Suffian made a motion that the EAC should spend up to \$500 to purchase horticultural vinegar (45%) and two backpack sprayers.

Mr. Baratz seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

Ms. Laurelli expressed concern about the caustic nature of the vinegar.

Mr. Suffian stated that he will look to see if 30% vinegar is effective on poison ivy and could be used instead.

c. Weisel Preserve Watering & Cages - Ms. Brown

Ms. Brown stated that we are overdue for watering the trees at the Weisel Preserve. Ms. Brown thinks it may require 2 groups to do the watering, which will take about 4 hours to complete.

Mr. Suffian reported that Ms. Ross informed him that some of the plants that Arcwild planted are not doing well.

Arcwild stated that they will attempt to look at the plants in the latter part of July.

Arcwild was asked for a watering estimate for the trees that were planted by PHS.

Arcwild reported that it would cost around \$200 to do that watering.

Mr. Suffian stated that if the 22 trees need to be watered because they are not guaranteed for a year then the EAC would have to do that.

Ms. Brown asked how involved it was to water the trees.

Mr. Suffian reported that the watering involved filling a 55-gallon rain barrel on the back of a "mule" and drive it to the site (via Pickerton Road).

Ms. Brown stated that she is going to send an email out to see who is available to help with the watering.

d. Single Use Plastic Bags - Mr. Gaines

Mr. Gaines stated that the EAC has been talking about single use plastics for a while. The BOS is reluctant to move ahead with this because it becomes a major concern for smaller companies.

Mr. Gaines stated that Canada and India have banned single use plastics but not everyone is doing it.

Mr. Gaines stated that the substitutes have their own problems, production of alternatives generate a lot more CO2 so you trade reduced ocean pollution with the need for more carbon assets.

Mr. Gaines also stated that reusable cloth bags can become loaded with pathogens unless frequently washed.

Mr. Gaines suggested an approach that uses education and working on individual stores in the area. Wegmans will be converting to paper or bring your own bags by the end of the year, but other stores have no intention of ending plastic bag use unless forced to do so.

Ms. Brown stated that she thought it was a good idea to use Warrington Day as an educational opportunity.

Mr. Gaines stated that someone in the EAC needs to take the lead on this issue and that he would be willing to support them.

e. Leaf Mulch Site-Weisel Preserve - Dr. Diorka

Dr. Diorka could not attend but sent an e-mail to Mr. Suffian. Mr. Suffian read the letter which asked if it would be possible for the township to have a leaf mulching site similar to what other townships do.

Ms. Schemm suggested asking Mr. Knox to see what the cost would be.

Mr. Gaines stated that Upper Dublin collects leaves in the fall and puts them in a mulch site that is next to a sewage treatment plant. However, it would cost Public Works time and money.

Mr. Gaines also stated that a mulching area could quickly become a dumping ground for trash.

f. "Thank You" Posters - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian reported that Ms. Ross reported that only three thank you posters are needed. Ms. Weremeychik stated that she will need the list of the three companies in order to make the posters.

Mr. Suffian stated that the companies are Wegmans, Wawa, and Crumble Cookies.

g. Litter Report - Mr. Xu

Mr. Xu reported that he did a litter study of litter around the townships parks and trails.

Mr. Xu then shared a PDF file of what he found.

Mr. Xu tagged approximately 249 pieces of litter over a one year period and categorized what he found.

Mr. Xu showed several graphs of the different types of litter that were found and the total composition of the litter.

Mr. Suffian suggested that Mr. Xu forward the report to the members of the EAC for their review.

h. Warrington Day - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Palimiri reported that Warrington Day is 9/24.

Mr. Suffian stated that there is nothing specific on the agenda, but asked for all of the members to be available for the day. Mr. Suffian asked if Ms. Brown would see if she could obtain seedlings to give away.

Mr. Suffian then asked for volunteers to man the booth during the day as well as setup in the morning and tear down in the evening.

Mr. Suffian stated that he will send around a sign-up sheet.

Mr. Suffian asked if there was anything else anyone wanted to share about Warrington Day.

There were no further comments.

i. Climate Action Plan Update - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian sent around the latest climate action plan draft to the members.

Mr. Suffian reported the executive summary to the members. The township will use clean energy by 2050 and all electricity would be generated by clean sources by 2035 and all other energy by 2050.

Mr. Suffian reported that over 1000 hours of volunteer time was used to develop the plan, which saved the township at least \$30,000.

j. Open Space Update – Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian reported that Ms. Ross provided him with the following update: Natural Lands will do a presentation for the 3 parks at the August 9th BOS meeting. If anyone has any comments they should send them to her as soon as possible.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

6. ADJOURN

Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Baratz

EAC Secretary