



**Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Hybrid Zoom/In-Person Meeting
December 7, 2022**

- 1. Call To Order, Pledge Of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:31pm. Present were: Fred Suffian, Chairman; Ivy Ross, Vice Chairman; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Marilyn Laurelli, Member; Ruth Schemm, Supervisor; Scott Vogin, Bike and Hike Liaison; Jake Kornegay, Member; Vinobha Pannerselvam, Member; Fred Gaines, Supervisor; Joanne Mancini, Park and Rec Liaison; Guy Powell, Member; Barbara Brown, Member.

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

- 2. Public Comment:**

Attending from the public - Bonnie Stetson, Zijun Xu, Drew Soltys
There was no public comment.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Ross motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Powell seconded.
All were in favor.

- 4. Business:**

- a. Eagle Scout Danny Jacobsen - Ms. Ross**

Ms. Ross stated that she signed all of Mr. Jacobsen's paperwork and noticed that he posted on facebook that he was selling snowflakes to raise money for his project and would donate any excess funds to the EAC.

Ms. Ross stated that the post was on the Warrington Community Group page.

Mr. Pannerselvam stated that there are a couple of areas where the chimney swift tower can be placed.

Ms. Schemm suggested that since the birds like a more congested area we should place the chimney swift tower in a busier part of town.

Ms. Ross stated that his proposal stated that placement would be at either Lions Pride Park or Lower Nike Park.

Ms. Brown believes that there may be too many children at Lions Pride Park.

- b. Eagle Scout Josh Sieto Wrap Up – Mr. Suffian**

Mr. Suffian stated that the EAC has not received a final report yet from Mr. Sieto, but that we did collaborate on a write-up.

Ms. Ross stated that we did 48 trees over 3 plantings which would have cost over \$17,000 but we received the trees for about \$2,500 so we saved the township about \$14,000.

c. DEP Governors Award – Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian stated that the idea to apply for the DEP Governors award was Ms. Ross' idea.

Ms. Ross proposed applying for the award using the Weisel Preserve. Mr. Suffian shared a PDF document detailing the 2023 Governors Award.

Ms. Ross then detailed the process the EAC has gone through to fund its trail systems and open space and other improvements to the township.

Ms. Ross then asked if the members could think of anything else that has been done to improve the township that could be used in this application.

Ms. Brown suggested adding the removal of invasive species from wooded areas at the preserve.

Ms. Ross agreed.

Mr. Suffian stated that we need to keep the application to a maximum of four (4) pages.

Mr. Pannerselvam stated that if the trails are ADA accessible then it can be added to the application.

d. Basin Maintenance – Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that Public Works mowed all the naturalized basins for the once-a-year mow.

Ms. Ross stated that a few trees were mowed down at the Pickertown and Folly Road basin during this mow.

Mr. Soltys stated that approximately 6 trees were mowed down.

Ms. Ross stated that this spring we may want to purchase some trees (10) to replace them during Community Day of Service. We will also flag all the existing trees at the basin, so this does not occur again next year.

e. Trail Segments B & C – Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that construction of the new trails along Pickertown and Lower State has started. If the weather does not support laying down the paving on the trail, then it will be completed in the spring.

Mr. Suffian asked if segments B & C were going to be traditional asphalt or porous?

Mr. Gaines did not know but suggested that we could change the order prior to having it done.

Mr. Ross stated that she would follow-up.

f. Master Plan Update – Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that we do not need to discuss trails and parking lots that the ad-hoc committee is going to discuss. She stated that the EAC should come up with some thoughts on what we would like to see from an environmental stand-point (invasive species, riparian buffers, etc.) and send that over to the ad-hoc committee for their review.

Mr. Suffian stated that we should not limit our comments to just environmental issues because non-environmental issues may have impacts that the EAC should comment on.

He also suggested sending the EAC's comments to the Board of Supervisors as well as the ad-hoc committee.

Mr. Gaines stated that Ms. Schemm should be kept involved in what the EAC feels is important because she represents the ad-hoc committee.

Ms. Laurelli stated that there have been two (2) meetings so far of the ad-hoc committee. Officers have been appointed and a schedule has been set. She also stated that the committee has chosen its members including four (4) members of the public who were given 9 or 10 documents to read including the Master Plan. Ms. Laurelli stated that the committee has not started working yet and that the first two meetings were around setting up the structure of the committee and how it will function.

Mr. Suffian stated that he would put together a letter that comes from the EAC.

It was agreed that comments should be sent to Mr. Suffian who will compile the comments.

g. Plastic Bag Ban – Ms. Ross

Mr. Gaines stated that he did not want the issue of plastic bags to be put on the back burner. He also stated that Doylestown Borough will be putting out a compromise ordinance to ban plastic bags.

Mr. Gaines stated that the EAC represents less than 1% of the population and does not represent the entire population. The EAC should put an article in the e-Link stating the reasons why plastic bags should be banned and to solicit feedback from the residents to better understand their point of view.

Mr. Gaines stated that an ordinance to ban plastic bags should be created with input from the business community as well as the residents.

h. Open Space Update – Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that the solicitors were at the last meeting. We have 1400 acres of open space in the township. The committee is working on what levels of protection to put on each of the parcels.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

Mr. Suffian stated that the idea of a memorial program is used in other townships and that the EAC should consider a similar program. The program could be used to plant trees or add benches.

Mr. Suffian also stated that at next Tuesday's Supervisors Meeting that Jen Feilding is going to present an update on the police station solar panels.

6. ADJOURN

Ms. Brown made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Powell seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Baratz
EAC Secretary