



**Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Hybrid Zoom/In-Person Meeting
February 1, 2023**

- 1. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Present were Fred Suffian, Chairman; Ivy Ross, Vice Chairman; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Fred Gaines, Supervisor; Ruth Schemm, Supervisor; Mike Diorka, Supervisor; Barbara Brown, Member; Guy Powell, Member; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Marilyn Laurelli, Member; Amy Crasto, Member; Steve Palimiri, Member; Bonnie Stetson, Member; Scott Vogin, Bike and Hike Liaison; James Keyser, Park and Rec Liaison.

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

- 2. Public Comment:**

Attending from the public - Zijun Xu, Drew Soltys, Ilka Warner
There was no public comment.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Weremeychik motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Brown seconded.
All were in favor.

- 4. Business:**

- a. Appointment of Bonnie Stetson – Ms. Ross**

Ms. Ross announced that Ms. Stetson has been appointed to the EAC as a full member

- b. Master Plan Update – Ms. Laurelli**

Ms. Laurelli stated that the meeting was on January 12th and that all members were present. She stated that they discussed the issues. The committee is trying to setup a field trip to the open space preserve to point out the features of the open space. MS. Laurelli also stated that the committee was going to continue to try and identify the issues.

The next meeting is February 9th at 7:30pm.

Mr. Suffian asked if there was a time frame to wrap up the committee's work.

Ms. Laurelli stated that she has not heard of any timeline.

Ms. Ross reported that the Conservation was going to perform a "walk" to see if any residents are encroaching on the watershed and document any encroachment.

Ms. Ross stated that this is the third year this is being done.

c. Wednesdays in the Watershed - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross reported that "Ed" from the Penn State Watershed wants to include "us" in the Penn State watershed called "Wednesdays in the Watershed". During these events volunteers go out and perform projects. Each Wednesday is dedicated to a different project. Warrington Township will be the fourth Wednesday of every month.

Ms. Ross reported that this is free of charge and will focus on removing invasives and ...

Ms. Ross reported that this is a year round program.

Ms. Ross stated that John Paul Park will be one of the sites of interest.

Ms. Ross also stated that they have a tree planting program that we can take advantage of.

There will be a field trip will be on Monday to visit John Paul Park and the stream that runs near the swim club.

d. Stream Health Project in March - Mr. Suffian

Ms. Ross reported that the stream health project will include live staking for stream health.

Mr. Suffian reported that the trail project has disturbed some stream banks and that it needs to be addressed with some live stakes or plant materials.

Mr. Suffian suggested that the trail project should be one of the sites that is visited.

e. Pond to Wetland Conversion - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross reported that she emailed a write-up with the EAC members.

Ms. Ross also reported that this Case Statement discusses fund raising for the pond to wetland project.

The case statement discusses the project, why it was put together, and why it is important.

The release for bids will be 2/27. Bids will be received on 3/7 and the project will be awarded on 3/10.

Ms. Ross stated that the project was put together 4 years ago, but the pricing still looks close.

Fund raising will be done through doner recognition.

Ms. Ross showed the case statement along with images of the current and proposed wetland area.

Mr. Powell asked about the impact this will have on bird migration.

Ms. Ross reported that Lions Pride Park is on the Dark Skies program.

Ms. Ross stated that she believes that once this project is complete it will become part of our Day of Community Service projects because the EAC will need to take care of it.

f. Possible Project with Parks and Recreation Board - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that Rick Weiss is no longer on the Park and Rec board.

Mr. Keyser stated that there is a new Chair and Vice Chair.

Mr. Keyser also stated that the Parks and Rec board is looking at the different parks and have determined that some of the parks can be improved to look more desirable and are thinking that they could work with the EAC to help improve the look and image of the parks.

Mr. Keyser stated that the board is looking to see how the sports teams can be engaged to help make these improvements.

Ms. Ross showed a new report from the NRPA on sustainability in parks and recreation.

g. Open Space Update - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross reported that the Board of Supervisors voted to hire Heritage Conservancy to write easements on Heritage Farms, Weisal Preserve and the two new developments being built.

Ms. Ross stated that she and Ms. Schemm have been talking about starting a "friends of open space" to form a lecture series. Ms. Ross is investigating various individuals who would be willing to participate.

The lectures would be 30 minutes before the open space meeting each month.

Ms. Ross stated that at the next Board of Supervisors meeting the board will review the open space protection level 2A, 2B and level 3.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

Ms. Brown reported that she was approached by some residents of Heritage Oaks about putting in a pollinator garden.

Mr. Suffian reported that the annual report is due on 2/10 and that he needs some help from the members. He also reported that there is no write-up for Warrington Day and would like one of the members to complete that write-up.

6. ADJOURN

Ms. Weremeychik made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Palimiri seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Baratz
EAC Secretary