



**Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Hybrid Zoom/In-Person Meeting
April 18, 2023**

- 1. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Present were Fred Suffian, Chairman; Ivy Ross, Vice Chairman; Fred Gaines, Supervisor; Ruth Schemm, Supervisor; Barbara Brown, Member; Guy Powell, Member; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Marilyn Laurelli, Member; Bonnie Stetson, Member; Jake Kornegay, Member; Steve Palmieri, Member; Scott Vogin, Bike and Hike Liaison.

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

- 2. Public Comment:**

Attending from the public - Zijun Xu and Ilke Werner.

Ms. Werner made a public comment regarding trash pickup in the Township. She wanted to know if any pickup had been scheduled. Ms. Ross replied that this could be scheduled as a Community Service Day project, which is slated for May 20, 2023. She advised that a signup genius is available to sign up as a volunteer. A question was also posed about signs located around the township which Ms. Ross advised is a zoning question, not an EAC issue. Doreen Curtin, Warrington Township zoning official, should be contacted. Ms. Ross can supply her contact information.

Ms. Ross reminded the group that the pollinator garden work is scheduled for Thursday evening.

Ms. Ross said that the Community Service Volunteer letter is located on the EAC website with an e-link to the community group. Ms. Ross said that a group could go together to pick up trash together at some locations.

Mr. Kornegay has two cottonwood saplings which could be planted in the basin on Spring Meadow Drive.

Ms. Schemm and Ms. Brown both have tree guards. Ms. Ross said 185 guards are in the trailer.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

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

4. Business:

a. Master Plan Update – Ms. Laurelli

Ms. Laurelli reported that the last meeting was on 4/13.

She reported that Chief Friel and Lee Greenberg were both at the meeting and discussed safety issues. Chief Friel felt that the safety issues were not major, and the Township would be prepared. Mr. Greenberg mentioned that an emergency medical ATV would be purchased and will be stored at the Firehouse adjacent to the Preserve in case of a medical emergency in the Preserve.

Ms. Laurelli reported that the group discussed wetland delineation and the need for careful preservation of sensitive areas.

Ms. Laurelli reported that there was a discussion about meadows and the need for a buffer between trails and the properties adjoining the preserve.

Ms. Laurelli stated that reforestation was also discussed.

Ms. Laurelli stated that the Mill Creek Preserve field trip occurred on Saturday, April 15 and was productive.

Ms. Laurelli stated the next meeting will be Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m.

Ms. Ross gave an update about the canine rescue group using the Mill Creek Preserve.

Chief Friel reached out to the canine rescue group. Will the presence of dogs be an issue when meadows are planted? There is a general concern regarding canines running after wildlife. Ms. Schemm said that people cannot take their dogs off the leash. There should be signs that warn people not to let their dogs off lead. Mr. Gaines and Ms. Schemm said there is an ordinance, and it should be enforced. Mr. Gaines said that the canine rescue group must wait to receive permission to use any Township space. Ms. Ross said there are other places for the group to go but not Mill Creek. Mr. Powell made an offer for the canine group to use his property. Ms. Ross will give this information to Mr. Oles of Park and Rec.

b. Wednesdays in the Watershed - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian reported that the group of Penn State watershed stewards will visit Warrington every 4th Wednesday.

They already have removed some invasives along the Morning Walk trail.

They will be doing live staking and removing invasives next time in the Weisel Preserve or as an alternative in the new trail by the stream at Mill Creek.

They can also revisit the invasives at Morning Walk.

c. Stream Health Project Wrap-Up

Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated about thirty people including some children attended the event which was held on April 1 in the park. Bucks County Conservation District employees, Karen Ogden and Lynn Laurelli, assisted the children with microscopes and magnifying glasses. Ed Hawkey, Penn State Master Watershed Steward, gave a live staking presentation. A lot of extra stakes (about 180) were available, and they were used in the Mill Creek stream channel. This counts toward credits for the MS4 program. Morning Walk Trail

staking also counts. Warrington Township supervisors all came to this event. The third and last event will be held on Warrington Day. Bucks County Conservation District and the Penn State Master Watershed Stewards will attend. There will be 1,000 pollinator plant plugs available. Peter Norton from Bike and Hike, who is a water quality engineer, gave a great presentation on April 1.

d. Pond to Wetland Conversion Update - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that everything was approved. The notice to proceed in three weeks was given to Aquatics Restoration and Resources (“ARR.”) They will do everything. Mr. Gaines asked if there were any emails from DCNR and was told there were none. Ms. Ross asked the DCNR for more funding and DCNR said it was okay to extend the grant for another year. This is favorable since more invasives will come up and this will allow for invasive species removal by ARR instead of the EAC having to do the removal.

e. 10 Million Trees - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross reported that Ed Hawkey, Master Watershed Steward, has been in contact with Karen Ogden of Bucks County Conservation District, who has the free trees. She is not sure what kind of trees Warrington will receive. Warrington could get as many as three hundred free trees, which will be the same size as the ones that were planted at Willow Knoll basin. Ms. Brown and Ms. Ross went to Willow Knoll basin and looked at the trees and they are doing well.

Ms. Ross stated that if the trees are planted in the basins, they could act as part of MS4 work.

Ms. Brown will keep the trees alive in her driveway. They will be in deep posts.

Ms. Ross must find out when to pick them up. Perhaps they can be held temporarily at the Grange.

Ms. Ross stated that the Township has two more years to go and two basins. These are small so we can plant them.

Ms. Ross has not found TreeVitalize funding; this has become harder to do.

Fancy equipment is not needed to plant the trees. One basin is on Stateman’s Road next to Billingsley. Ms. Brown and Ms. Ross went to look at the basin.

f. EAC Day of Community Service - Date and Projects - Group

Ms. Ross said that the Community Service volunteer letters were done and were going in the mail.

Wawa is donating 170 water bottles.

Ms. Ross asked Wegman’s for \$200.00.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful supplied two hundred gloves, trash bags, and vests.

We will meet at the Pavilion at Lion's Pride Park at 8 a.m. For EAC members, figure on a timeframe of 8 am to 2 pm.

Projects:

- Butterfly Garden at IPW – headed by Ms. Laurelli.
- Rain Garden Maintenance – headed by Mr. Kornegay.

Cardboard for these projects is on the porch by the gardens. Some mulch is still left, and more can be obtained. Ms. Brown will mark what not to pull in the rain garden.

- Sarah's Lane Basin – looks good. Replant about ten trees, take cages off, and clean out grass. Ms. Brown has a list of trees. She will get trees and mark where they go.
- Pickertown and Folly Road - replace ten trees. Drew Soltys has been taking care of this basin.
- Lion's Pride Park – Mr. Weremeychik said that Public Works might reinstall the sign. However, there may not be a place for it. They will check.
- Trash Pick Up – Ms. Werner will set up a group for trash pickup. The EAC will provide supplies.
- Flower Planting at Lions Pride, IPW and Memorial Garden – headed by Ms. Weremeychik.
 - Lower Nike Park in area around sign – previous plan was to switch to perennials for this area, but not this year.
 - Memorial Garden and the Rock - will plant the areas with red, white, and blue annuals.
- Weisel Preserve Pollinator Garden – rejuvenate a section by removing grass and put plugs in an area where the grass is removed. Do this in front or behind the pollinator sign. Do a small area such as five feet by five feet as a test.

Ms. Ross said the next step is to take roll call and see who we have lined up.

Ms. Ross will send Mr. Vogin the volunteer letter so he can distribute it to the Bike and Hike Committee.

Ms. Ross said the next task is to go out the check basins, list projects, and figure who will work on what. Statesman's Road Basin is a possibility.

Ms. Ross has not heard anything from Parks and Rec.

- Lower Nike Park Pollinator garden – not sure if this will need to be done – some weeding will take place this week.

Ms. Ross mentioned that the Weisel Preserve PHS trees desperately need to be restaked and tied as they have fallen over. This is a heavy-duty job – it could be done after work at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Palmieri and Mr. Powell might be able to go. Archewild will replace anything they planted that dies.

- Trash pickups are also available on May 20. Ms. Werner will invite Rotary.

Mr. Suffian said a project list plus a tool list for each site should be prepared. Ms. Brown and Ms. Ross will work on a list.

Ms. Ross said letters went to everyone asking for help. There is a link to sign up genius. The start time for volunteers is 9 to 12.

Ms. Ross asked everyone at the meeting to take the some Community Service letters and hand them out while asking for donations.

Mr. Suffian said that Lowes has a tree planting dibble bore and the EAC should get a couple of them. We already have some in the trailer but maybe should get a couple more.

Is there anything left on the Lowes gift card? Mr. Palmieri asked about a small auger.

Ms. Ross suggested that Mr. Suffian and Mr. Weremeychik split up and go to Lowes and Home Depot and ask for a donation. Who will win the dibble contest?

g. Open Space Update - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross gave an update about the meadows at Mill Creek. She reached out to Mr. Lingo and asked if he could mow the meadows since he has farm mowers. The plan is to get the first mow done by the end of May. Then get the first bid out and in August herbicide and plant the seed.

Ms. Ross spoke with Mr. Drew Gilcrest from DCNR regarding contacts about meadow instillation. Mr. Gilcrest provided a contact. Ms. Ross also asked if he would be willing to give a lecture about Meadows at the “Friends of Warrington Open Spaces”, lecture series. He has agreed to speak at the November or December meeting.

Ms. Ross sent out an invite for the May 5 ribbon cutting for the new trail.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

Ms. Ross mentioned that mice are making a home in the trailer. Someone should go through the stuff and use the garage in the back rooms in the basement. Put the dirty stuff in the trailer.

6. ADJOURN

Mr. Weremeychik made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Brown seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Laurelli
EAC Member