

Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
8 August 2017

Attendees: EJ Richter, Board Liaison; Doug Anestad, Katherine Ridella, Priyanka Kapadiya, Tom Szwech, and Mary Westervelt, EAC members; Erin McPherson, Township Engineer Liaison; and Signe Hansen, guest.

Start Time: 7:08pm.

Unfortunately, review and acceptance of the minutes from the June 13 meeting was overlooked. This will have to be added to the October meeting agenda.

Reports

Ash Tree Survey: Survey of ash trees in Tredyffrin parks completed over the week following the Saturday, June 24th with the goal of informing the Board of Supervisors so they can form a plan regarding emerald ash borer. Many thanks to all who participated. Mary wrote up a summary of the findings and sent it to Board of Supervisors members along with a spreadsheet of the exact numbers and comments from surveyors. Recommendation was to definitely treat five or six specific trees of high quality and prominent location, to let go quite a few others, and to have an arborist evaluate a dozen or so in-between specimens. An additional recommendation was to inform the neighbors of Wilson Farm Park whose ash trees will die and become a hazard in the park (as well as on the private property surrounding it).

BoS had the report before their most recent meeting, but did not act on it - the report was included in the packet 'for information only.' EAC has clearly stated to BoS that a decision must be made in a timely manner, or the default decision will be to let all the trees die. Further action is out of the hands of the EAC and is the responsibility of the BoS.

- Mary has posted everything important in Google drive.
- Priyanka reports that a friend who works at Arader Tree Service in Conshohocken stated plant health care specialists are advising customers not to treat already infected trees, to only do preventative treatment for ash trees they do not want to risk losing, and/or let trees die if infected
- Mary tells us the message conveyed to Board of Supervisors was that it is more difficult to remove tree after it is dead than if alive, and treatment is usually the most cost-effective option. Sooner is better than later; guidelines from DCNR advise to make a decision within 1 year of finding EAB within 20 miles.
 - o Infected trees will die and become hazardous
 - o Tom: want feedback from Board, does not want report to go to waste, **EJ will ask Board for a response at next meeting which is Aug 21**
 - o **Priyanka will try to get a quote / budget from certified arborist**
 - o Mary – Wilson Farm Park: Our survey data are ambiguous because one team reported odd findings (trees in flower?) indicating that they were not looking at Ash trees. Thus need arborist to evaluate.

Grant Options

- **Katherine** putting together schedule; most viable option is TreeVitalize, whose deadline has already passed for 2017. Unfortunately it was too short of a turnaround time to submit a grant for this year. The next TreeVitalize deadline will be August 2018. Other grant deadlines are January.
- **Priyanka** says we should connect with arboretums to see where they source funding etc.

Other EAC communication reported

- Mary sent an article to be published in the Fall Tredyffrin Newsletter re: Emerald Ash Borer and our survey.
- At Doug's invitation, Mary gave an introduction to the EAC at the July 13 Tredyffrin Republicans meeting. Ten people put their names on the 'information and volunteer' list, with specific requests for EAB information from two people, and a request for a backyard habitat evaluation from another.
- Mary, Katherine and Tom reported on a phone discussion with Green Valley Watersheds rep Kelsey Stanton. Kelsey followed up with an e-mail with some resources to explore for possible funds or materials (such as rain barrels).
 - Katherine: has worked with them previously, they are willing to collaborate with us for an event, they need us to come to them w/ an event they can advertise and send out to their 'list'
 - **Katherine suggests connecting with them for this year's tree-tube maintenance event Oct. 28th, 9 to noon**
 - Tom says Green Valley is definitely willing to help if location is near a watershed (Crabby Creek). Katherine clarifies that, more specifically, GV would be willing to distribute information about the event to their volunteer lists.
 - EJ is wondering what type of event they are most interested in. Katherine says they typically focus on watersheds in northern Chester County. Maybe they would be willing to assist with a macroinvertebrate stream sampling, great educational event, especially for children
 - EJ suggests down by Glenhardie
 - Doug's property touches on parcel 19 in Chesterbrook → Tom would like to explore Chesterbrook as a future tree planting site.

Upcoming events/ concerns

Tree planting on Open Lands Conservancy preserve Oct. 14th: EAC will help get volunteers by soliciting at Party in Park, and using current volunteer list. (help solicited by Margot Taylor)

From Ray Clarke of OLC:

Thanks so much for keeping OLC on your and the EAC's radar screen!

I think it's definitely time for a "Hold the Date" announcement. The date info from Margot is still good: 10/14/2017, 8:30 to noon. The location is Open Land Conservancy's Cedar Hollow Preserve on Church Road in

western Tredyffrin (*farwestern!*). The parking lot is located at approximately 1635 Church Road and the Preserve is marked at that address on Google Maps. Parking is a little tight, so car-pooling will be helpful (and for the environment, too!). Trees, tubes and special "mulch plates" will be in hand by the planting date, and we expect to have many of the 750 trees planted by a Siemens corporate group during the week before. I wouldn't want to set any limits on the number of volunteers. Sign ups would be nice, but I think not necessary?

Tools:
Gloves
Shovel
Trowel
Mallet

Happily we are planting in the flood plain, so nice and soft ground, no need for picks/mattocks! Unlike the Crabby Creek Park solid rock!

Margot Taylor adds:

Sign ups welcome, but open registration day of the event. The more the merrier.

Volunteers are to bring their own tools, shovels, spades, gloves, and "if have" a light weight sledge hammer. Water, sun and insect protection. This area may be wet and highly recommend waterproof shoes/ boots.

Please add- rain date of Saturday October 21, 8:30-12 noon.

We will make the rain date call the night before hand. If there is lightning at any time, day of event, we will pull off task immediately.

Tree-tube maintenance scheduled for October 28th, 8:30 to noon. No new planting under EAC auspices. Need to maintain earlier plantings: right fallen stakes, repair tubes, replace nets, clean away weeds. Locations: Wilson Farm Park, Crabby Creek Park, possibly Radbill Park.

- Mary emailed Margo Taylor, who suggested contacting Jim MacKenzie at Octoraro Plant Nursery for tubes and nets. Address: jim@octoraro.com
 - Katherine might be able to get nets at no cost from Stroud. She's looking into it.
 - Tom suggested contacting Margo Taylor for volunteers; Mary prefers to use EAC's collected list, and maybe contact Open Lands Conservancy (Ray Clarke) since we will be helping them round up volunteers for their Oct. 16 planting.
- **Aug 25th 2:30pm:** Scouting event for tree-tube maintenance event in October → Mary, Tom, Katherine (Doug?) will attend (Priyanka cannot attend), will scout **Wilson Farm Park and Crabby Creek if time (we'll split if enough people attend or try to scout both locations.) [MW scouted Crabby Creek Park on October 23rd.]**
 - EJ suggests going with Wilson Farm Park because it needs the most work
 - **Tom** will reach out to Pete to ask about other locations (outside of CC and WFP)
 - Then put out a call for volunteers: **Mary** to use combined volunteer list, **Katherine** to contact Green Valley Watersheds.

Community Day (Party in the Park, 16 September, 4-6)

In response to EAC request, Hilliary Mallory has agreed to provide separate tables for EAC and Bird

Town [prob. not necessary: Bird Town folks are away that weekend - MW].

EAC activities/foci at the table

- Raffle for a rain barrel: visitors to table can enter raffle if they sign up to be on contact list.
- **Tom** to acquire rain barrel using restitution funds (Tom made a motion and was seconded by Katherine to spend up to \$120 on a barrel to be raffled at Community Day. Motion passed 5-0.).
- **Mary** to provide fish bowl or flower pot for tickets
- **Jim** to provide tickets

Information /flyers at table:

- EAC flyer: **Erin** to print 50 color copies (ask Mary for pdf if needed)
- Other flyers: **Mary** to contact sources and replenish supplies.

Information about live-stake planting and tree planting:

Mary will contact Chuck Cutshall to obtain photos of his thriving black willow plantings.

Mary will take photos of her thriving red-twig dogwood plantings and make a poster.

IDEA: Have signs that say Ask me about live stakes, ask me about tree-planting, or Ask me about riparian buffers, etc. NEED A VOLUNTEER to make such signs.

Mary will bring supply of seedlings and small native plants to give away. (Good to have this in connection with 'ask me about' signs.)

Need a sign-up sheet for tree-plantings (see above, raffle).

Suggested: have a live sapling, demo planting it and providing it with a tree tube. [**Note: Jenkins Arboretum has donated saplings for Westover Bird Sanctuary; we can use one of those. MW**]

Other attractions at the table

- **Doug** will get pretzels to sell.
- **Mary** will contact Jenkins Arboretum and see if they want to add information to the table (flyers, date for fall plant sale, etc.)

Other news

Jenkins Arboretum has offered trees and volunteers for work at Westover Bird Sanctuary; to be scheduled for a Thursday in October (probably Oct. 19).

Margot Taylor is planning a Green Valley Association workshop for EACs to be held December 2. Fee under discussion. E-mail to Mary:

So you know I have integrated your suggestions on "where are the funding sources" into GVA's upcoming PA Municipal EAC workshop to be held December 2, at Historic Yellow Springs, 9-12 noon. We will have a panel of speakers sharing funding and other resources for protecting water resources in PA via good planning. I appreciate your thoughts shared.

New concerns

- **Tom** reported that Trex, the maker of decking and lumber from recycled plastic bags, promotes recycling by communities and schools by offering incentives. This would be a great way for EAC to encourage recycling in Tredyffrin. See <http://www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/>

Tom will report more information at next EAC meeting.

- Tom further reports that, even though Tredyffrin has a recycling ordinance and supposedly fines violators, recycling compliance is low in schools. Mary reports conversation (in 2015) with Nancy Wilson, 5th grade teacher at TE, to wit: Recycling efforts die because people don't sort recyclables well enough and don't clean them, and the custodial crew is too overworked so just recombines everything into the waste stream. Doug will ask Maintenance Chair and report back.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.