

Tredyffrin Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
13 June 2017

Present: Doug Anestad, Thomas Szwech, Mary Westervelt; Erin McPherson, EJ Richter, Priyanka Kapadia, Jim McLaughlin, Katherine Ridella, Signe Hansen (Guest- Tredyffrin Resident).

Introductions for guest

Minutes of the June 2017 meeting were approved as submitted

- **EAC welcomed new member, Katherine Ridella**
- **Reviewed/accepted minutes from meeting 11 April 2017**
- **Activity Report Recap:**

⊕ 19 April EAC presentation at TT Democrats meeting (Mary), names were recorded

- ⊖ **Doug arranged for Mary to offer a similar presentation to TT Republican group on July 13, 2017, 7:30pm at Community Building** (a short 3-point talk with brochure distribution) followed by emerald ash borer update.

⊕ 22 April meeting w/ Pete Goodman (Tom, Mary), Trout Unlimited Environmental lead, to discuss:

- ⊖ **Ways to collaborate with other groups of similar interest**
- ⊖ **Historical EAC presence on stormwater planning board and involvement in permitting**
- ⊖ **Maintenance of rain gardens in WFP (weeding invasives) currently being done sporadically, mostly by Pete Goodman. We could put this out to our volunteers list.**
- ⊖ **Discussed EAC plantings/stake giveaways and Trout Unlimited issues with early mortality at other planting sites**
- ⊖ **EAC will seek similar meetings with other interest groups in near future, such as Green Valley Watersheds (Katherine will make first contact)**

⊕ 26 May: Article for e-newsletter submitted to Pat Hoffman on emerald ash borers which was included in e-newsletter distributed on May 31, 2017. Posted on EAC Google Docs folder, in EAB subfolder.

⊕ 23 and 31 May: Emerald Ash Borer research (Mary, Doug, Heather Kerr of DCNR)

- ⊖ **Since article was posted, EAC confirmed ash borer presence in Township (Chester Valley Trail). Decision tree for action options provided by West Chester EAC, can be used for reference in determining specific plan for individual trees.**

- ⊖ **Treatment requires funding; EAC will discuss options and make recommendations to Parks and Board of Supervisors once inventory of ash trees in Township public land (especially parks) is complete. Any option (remove healthy trees, remove dead trees, treat trees) will require funding, which should be allocated for action in 2018.**

- **Next BOS meeting on June 19th. Parks & Rec meet on June 14th. Doug and Mary will attend as EAC liaisons, present during the ash borer discussion which is**

currently on the agenda. BOS then meets following week.

- Tom mentioned statewide program for assistance with EAB treatment. Borough of West Chester took advantage of this. Tom will research grant options on behalf of the Township.
- Discussed volunteers to survey public lands, **proposed meeting date for orientation June 24, 2017 at 0900 Teegarden Park, west end lot off Cassatt Rd. Rain date Sunday 2pm Jim will develop sample materials and inventory form**
- Mary will develop communication to volunteers inviting them to instructional meeting on 6/24. From that meeting we hope to deploy to various parks around the twp. To complete inventory on same day.

⊖ **Light pollution:** Mary searched e-code 360 <http://ecode360.com/TR1485> and Tredyffrin website but found nothing related to lighting.

Tom suggests emailing Township code enforcement officer for confirmation, **Mary possibly to follow up**

- **New Business/To Do**

⊖ **Write an article!** Fall Tredyffrin Newsletter will be mailed Labor Day. Copy and photos due to Pat Hoffman by end of June, if we're interested in submitting a relevant article.

Possible topics:

1. Emerald ash borer. Perhaps the ash borer language from the e-newsletter with added update on action taken in June. **Doug and Mary will convene this week to finalize language prior to month's end. Will also develop information to present to BOS.**
2. **Planting trees and shrubs in township.**

⊖ **Community Day "Party in the Park" 16 September 2017**

⊖ Mary will inform Hilliary Mallory of EAC interest in table and ask if separate table can be provided for Bird Town group, because last year the shared table seemed more like a table for Audubon (Bird Town) and EAC was overshadowed.

⊖ During August meeting we will discuss promotional materials and goals for the event.

⊖ **Standing item: At request of Margot Taylor, EAC will coordinate solicitation of volunteers for October 2017 planting with Open Lands Conservancy (OLC).** Margot is consulting with OLC on fall planting in Cedar Hollow Preserve. Community-volunteer planting day Saturday October 14, 8:30 – 12 noon, rain date October 21 same time.

⊖ Use expanded volunteer list generated at 2017 Community Day, March Live-Stake Giveaway, and various events where EAC had a presence.

⊖ EJ suggests beginning grant applications for future tree-plantings ASAP. DCNR grant application window (for 2018 grants) closed in April 2017.

⊖ EJ suggests reaching out to community- the idea of Tree-Dyffrin is to educate and initiate residents to plant trees. She suggests sapling residential swap this year instead of large-scale planting in open space. Mary commented that she has many saplings potted up & needing homes. Hurdles for a large-scale swap: need to educate public about value of natives versus non-natives, value of tiny saplings even if they won't be large soon, and the need for deer/rabbit/vole protection for most tiny trees. Idea of

combining tree swap with Community Day was rejected as diffusing focus; however, that adds the hurdle of finding a time and place for a swap.

- Tom will craft a draft Tree-Dyffrin advertisement for publication in next Township Newsletter for October 2017 event once details of the event are confirmed (either support of OLC's tree planting in Cedar Hollow Preserve, or a possible EAC tree swap). (See 'possible articles for newsletter #2' above; an 'ad' would tie in with the draft article Mary prepared but did not use in May.)
 - Group discussed Tree-Dyffrin mission, advertising, and expansion
 - Tom will contact Margot Taylor to inquire where (from which groups) she has successfully secured grant funding for tree plantings and the like.

- Action item (highlighted in yellow) recap- Jim

Meeting adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 8 August 2017, 7:00 p.m., Tredyffrin Township Building.