

Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
13 February 2018

Present: Mary Westervelt, Tom Szwech, Signe Hansen, Doug Anestad, Priyanka Kapadia
Guests: Janet Rich, Jennifer Cox, Rutger Boerema
Absent: Katherine Ridella (EAC member), Kevin O'Neill (Board of Supervisors), Erin McPherson (Township Asst. Engineer)

Jim McLaughlin has resigned from the EAC due to family obligations. We regret the loss of this important member of the Advisory Council and wish him and his family well.

December meeting minutes accepted.

Reports / action items

1. Subcommittee/task force: Clean Energy Initiative (Priyanka, Tom, guests Rutger Boerema and Jennifer Cox)

Tom commends Rutger and Jennifer for their work on this initiative. Jennifer: checked with Darrin Fitzgerald – now TWP uses Patriot Energy. 2006 Tredyffrin Clean Energy resolution refers to health impacts of carbon-based energy production, transmission, and use.

Rutger and Jennifer to present/lead discussion at March 12 Citizens' Forum, Tredyffrin Library

2. Subcommittee/task force: Keeping stormwater on homeowners' property (Mary, Katherine): Report attached at end of Minutes.
3. Recycling: Tom reports that it is not happening in schools. Recycle bins emptied into trash.
4. Emerald Ash Borer: Board of Supervisors was sent a memo on 15 January, 2018 summarizing our action and reiterating our position.

New information

1. All volunteers on lists have been encouraged to visit our Facebook page.
2. Bird Town/Great Back Yard Bird Count (collaboration with neighboring Bird Town Committees) held an intro event at Jenkins Arboretum 3 Feb 2018. Bird Count will be held 16-19 February 2018.
3. Presentation at Jenkins Arboretum 11 Feb 2018: *Westover: From Fireworks Explosion to Bird Sanctuary* well attended, lively discussion afterwards.
4. Mariner East pipeline was proposed as a discussion item but there was no time during the meeting.

Discussion of two items usually undertaken in the spring and fall:

- Tree planting (fall, but considerable set-up required ahead of time)
- Live-stake giveaway

Mary proposed, and group agreed, not to pursue these activities this year or in the foreseeable future. Reasons as follows:

- Planting trees puts EAC on the hook for maintaining them in perpetuity. Due to natural attrition and continued vandalism, we have our hands full maintaining the trees planted at Wilson Farm Park and Crabby Creek Park.
- Live stakes have not succeeded along stream banks because storm surges wash them out.
- Current Parks and Recreation policy is to cut the willows in and around the pond in Wilson Farm Park, so we have no ready source for stakes to plant in flood plain. (Also don't necessarily want to create a monoculture of black willow in the township flood plains.)

Further discussion

Black willows in Wilson Farm Park: Why were the black willows cut down? Ask Parks and Recreation (or possibly Tory Snyder – Planning Commission). **Mary to attend next Parks and Rec meeting** and will bring up this point as well as the point that Parks and Rec minutes from September, 2017 report **in error** that our ash-tree survey, completed summer 2017, found no trees worth saving.

Publicity: Priyanka urges **each of us** to send her five items to post on our facebook page.

Stormwater Committee Report

MS4 Requirements: Engineers did not talk to EAC at all. Mary found a November draft of report to BoS on the Tredyffrin website. Learned the following:

1. Engineers committed EAC to plant 800 trees, even while reporting that doing so will have very little impact on reduction of sediment as required by EPA permitting regs.
2. Report states that stream restoration will occur in Westover 'Bird Sanctuary' (quotes in the report) in 2023, but Bird Town Group was not informed, even though Steve Burgo was part of a group visit to Westover to examine that area to give Girl Scouts permission and guidance with a project to create a path and plant in the flood plain.

Engineers (Erin McPherson, Steve Burgo) did not respond to request to meet.

Mary sent lengthy email message stating dissatisfaction that EAC was not included in discussion, suggesting that more useful focus for efforts would be in informing residents about stormwater issues and enabling them to keep water on property.

Stream monitoring – is it happening? Mary e-mailed Kevin Strogon at Conestoga. He reports that no one at schools is doing stream monitoring, though a teacher used to.

No rain garden/rain barrel activities that we can find in Tredyffrin.

We watched a **leaf pack video** and think this is an activity students could do IF we can wedge a way

into the schools.

Katherine talked to David Bressler, Citizen Science Project Facilitator at Stroud Water Research Center, about Fall event. He is open to coming here to lead event/workshop for residents. Get back to him with topic and date(s).

Stormwater Subcommittee Goals for 2018

1. Rain Barrel Workshop/Giveaway (June or July)

1. Mary could teach
2. Need a source of rain barrels. Possible to use some of WFP restitution money for barrels?

2. Earth Day Celebration – learn how to manage stormwater on your property (April)

Where – Township Building? UMLY? Ask Brian Raicich.

3. Citizen Science event (Fall) in connection with Stroud WRC.

4. Ongoing information dissemination: Watch for rain gardens, rain barrels, in action; Note plugged storm sewers, erosion, etc.; post on our Facebook page.

Stormwater Committee To Do

- Contact Stroud. Katherine to ask what sort of activities Stroud has done in the past. Decide on activity and date(s).
- Meet with Township Engineers? Contact Twp Manager (Bill Martin).
- Katherine to see if Leaf Pack Network is something schools could do.
- Plan what information to share at Earth Day event (how to keep stormwater on your property). Establish if this could be part of a larger Earth Day event.
- Find funding to buy a rain barrel(s) for giveaway, possibly June or July 4th community event. What is in the restitution account? Where do Lower Merion and Darby Creek Valley Assoc. get rain barrels? Could we offer rain barrels at a discount for residents to purchase? Offer home visits to help with planning?
- Make Facebook posts about rainwater.

Meeting adjourned 9 p.m.