

Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
10 April 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees:

- Guests: Lloyd Russo – Tredyffrin resident for 5 years, Bonnie Witmer – Bird Town, Jennifer Cox – Clean Air Initiative volunteer
- Denise Waite – Planning Commission liaison
- EAC members Mary Westervelt, Signe Hansen, Rutger Boerema, Doug Anestad, Tom Szwech, Erin McPherson (Twp Engineer). Late: Katherine Ridella, Priyanka Kapadia.

Absent: Kevin O'Neil, BOS liaison.

Welcome to Rutger Boerema as new EAC member.

Review/acceptance of February meeting minutes.

Note: No representative present from Board of Supervisors. EAC is anxious to have this continuing situation remediated.

Reports from subcommittees/task forces

1. Clean Energy Initiative (Priyanka Kapadia, Tom Szwech, Rutger Boerema)

Rutger and Jennifer Cox presented/led discussion at March 12 Citizens' Forum, Tredyffrin Library; well attended, many questions.

Rutger: they hope to give more presentations. Mary gave suggestions for re-working the presentation to anticipate objections from audience, give outline of talk. Make it clear that, even if the Township does not adopt a Clean Energy Initiative, individuals can select a wind-energy provider.

Mary suggested that the Clean Energy subcommittee set up some information sessions re: alternative energy sources available to homeowners. Also suggests tours – Jenkins for geothermal? They might host talks about various choices.

Rutger asked for feedback on the wording of the Sustainability Resolution to get it ready to present to the Board of Supervisors.

Denise Waite comments: astounded that there is no clean energy effort on the horizon.

The prevalence of geothermal as an easy option for TE homeowners was discussed. Erin was asked why permitting fees are necessary for things such as a roof solar panel since this makes up a significant cost of installation for homeowners.

Doug: concerns: Twp will fight creating a committee, given that staff is at full capacity. Suggests pushing with the initiative ourselves but asking BoS to do specifics like reduce fees for (e.g.) solar panel installation.

2. Keeping stormwater on homeowners' property (Mary, Katherine)

Stormwater subcommittee goal of Planning an Education Event for residents:

- Katherine spoke with David Bressler at Stroud, who is citizen science coordinator. Plan to do an educational event about what residents can do on their own property to manage stormwater. David has an idea of a guest speaker to join him who is very experienced in this area. **Tentative date October 6,**

Oct. 13 backup date. Tentative location: Valley Forge Park, along Valley Stream. Katherine will pursue with Stroud and VFNP.

Further notes under report from Delaware River Keeper Schuylkill Watershed Conference.

3. Recycling: Tom Szwech: Zach Barner, recycle contact at Twp, has left. Twp applied for DEP grant, is talking to consultant to help formalize goals and procedures. Ordinance: \$2,500 fine for not recycling. Not clear it has ever been enforced. Tom reports that if you recycle anything, you are considered compliant.
School district business office is the next contact. Doug suggests School Board instead, via SB Facilities meeting.
4. Priyanka Kapadia: Communication: Facebook page: postings fell off after initial weeks. We are encouraged to get back into the habit of posting. Immediate need: post re: pesticides and chemical pyrethroid sprays.
5. Signe Hansen: Outreach: Attended the Haverford- sponsored workshop on rain gardens and spoke with Peter Puglionesi about borrowing their enviroscape for display at Wilson Farm Park on community day. Peter was enthusiastic and willing to provide that and other posters materials.

Signe corresponded with Conestoga HS science teacher Scott Best regarding having high school students more involved in EAC volunteer activities. Mr. Best was generally positive, wondered if our activities would tie in with the HS Envirothon club, and agreed to forward the email to other science teachers.

Other reports

1. Bird Town: Report from Bird Town volunteer Bonnie Witmer.
Backyard Bird Count held 16-19 February 2018. Event at Jenkins Arboretum. Bonnie: Jenkins Backyard Bird-count event was a wash.
Bird Town Summit held March 10th. Talks given about ways to spread word, do advocacy.
Schuylkill, Warrington, Lower Makefield all have native plant ordinances. Schuylkill's requires new development to put in native plants – and some plants proscribed. Tredyffrin encouraged to follow suit.
NOTE: Toll Bros. has donated 100 acres for a meadow in Newtown Square.
2. Delaware River Keeper Schuylkill Watershed Conference, Pottstown, PA, March 10th: Mary and Katherine attended. Would like to be reimbursed for fee. We did not discuss content of the meeting due to lack of time. To be discussed June meeting.
3. Photo op at Westover Bird Sanctuary/article in Suburban in connection with installation of historical sign. Good that Westover got the publicity; too bad the article lacked proof-reading (the worst example: Murph Wysocki listed as Murphy Socki in photo caption).
4. Interaction with Parks and Recreation: Doug and Mary (went to March 14th meeting)
Mary to meet with Darin Fitzgerald of Public Works before any more willows are cut at Wilson Farm Park (as of Monday, 9 April, no immediate plans to cut – current focus is getting ball fields ready for the season).
Doug to serve as EAC liaison with Parks and Rec.
5. Emerald ash borer:
Parks and Recreation voted unanimously to recommend to Board of Supervisors that they act immediately to address the problem in Tredyffrin. Attached are letters: (1) from Hilliary Mallory (from Parks and Rec, March 14th meeting report)

New business

1. Invitation from Brian Raicich of UMLY for EAC to host a table at the Healthy Kids Day celebration on Earth Day, 22 April, 11 to 2. Mary did this last year; not able to this year. Rutger volunteered to set up, doesn't want to stay for full three hours. Brian's contact information: braicich@ymcagbw.org

2. News item: MosquitoJoe in area advertising heavily. We need to alert public via Facebook. mosquitojoe.com says they are using pyrethroids in their barrier spray.

Barrier spray: Pyrethroids. Information about pyrethroids from Mt. Cuba class, Integrated Pest Management (Mike Leventry, Verdant Plant Health Care)

- Not new, first isolated in 1949
- Derived from pyrethrum, an extract of *Chrysanthemum* daisies
- Very toxic to fish,
- Very toxic to bees, other beneficial insects
- Persistent, broad-spectrum, fast acting
- OMRI PROHIBITED. (Compare pyrethrum – OMRI listed for restricted uses) OMRI = Organic Materials Research Institute

No information available on website about their 'natural' alternative. Mary has called.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting: June 13, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Addendum: E-mail messages re: Ash tree survey and emerald ash borer

(1) E-mail from Hilliary Mallory to Mary

Motion by Kyle Boyer

Park Board makes the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that they act immediately on the (attached) letter from the EAC. The Park Board recommends the BOS follow the specific actions proposed in the letter including the treatment of the recommended trees.

Unanimously approved by the Board.

Hilliary Mallory
Public Works Coordinator

(2) From Heather Greenberg, Board of Supervisors Chair, March 15th:

Hi Mary-

This morning during our Finance committee mtg we already instructed Bill and Joe to start the process of getting estimates on addressing this issue. My hope is that we will be able to obtain and approve as soon as possible within our procurement guidelines.

I am sorry this did not come to us before now but as I said last night, we are in it now and will accelerate.

Thank you for bringing this back to our attention.

Kind regards-
Heather