

Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
12 June 2018

Begun: 7:05

Present: Heather Greenwood, Board of Supervisors Chair; EAC members Mary Westervelt, Signe Hansen, Tom Szwech, Doug Anestad, Priyanka Kapadia, Katherine Ridella; Denise Waite, Planning Board Liaison; Erin McPherson, Township Engineering Liason; Jennifer Cox, Guest

Late (coming from travel): Rutger Boerema

Absent: Kevin O'Nell, BOS Liaison

Accepted April 10 minutes

Announcement: Katherine Ridella will be moving this summer so will be leaving the EAC. This is her last meeting. Thank you Katherine, we will miss you!

Activity reports

- Healthy Kids Day, April 22 (Rutger, Signe, Priyanka)
People asked for list of parks. Bonnie Witmer of Bird Town Group has created a list (larger than Tredyffrin.

We need to edit and be ready to hand out on Community Day.

Signe suggests facebook post re: parks, on rotating basis. List of birds to see.

- Westover Bird Sanctuary garden planting around sign May 12, 25 (Mary). We had zero response to requests for volunteers on NextDoor, EAC Facebook, e-mail to previous volunteers from other planting activities. Bonnie Witmer, Phil Witmer, Mary, and Michele Hawk, the Bird-Town enthusiasts, worked two days weeding, planting, watering, and mulching the new garden bed.

Mary noted on later watering visits that the trees planted last October are in serious need of weeding and tree-tube maintenance.

- Ash-tree survey: Board of Supervisors has hired Rockwell Associates to assess and treat trees. \$30K of services approved. Anticipate starting first week of July, send report w/in 30 days.

TO DO: new article about issue, including homeowners' need to assess their trees, especially if their property abuts public land.

Committee reports

- **Stormwater: Mary, Katherine**
 - Report from Schuylkill Watershed Congress, March 10 (highlights attached)
 - Request for reimbursement for registration fee (approved)
 - Updates? October 6 proposed education event with Stroud **confirmed. Katherine will pass contact information to Mary.**
- **Recycling: Tom Szwech**

School District not consistent in recycling. Tom has detailed information from each school. Tom went to School Board meeting to report. No response to date to his messages summarizing his findings.

- **Communication: Priyanka Kapadia**

Green Building Symposium. Talked to ____ about solar in Chesterbrook. Also Women for Sustainability networking event.

- **Outreach: Signe Hansen**

Nothing to report. Discussion that 'enviroscape' would be a useful investment for events like Community Day.

- **Parks: Doug Anestad**

April 11: Parks & Rec. Try again to contact Darin Fitzgerald re: willows.

EAC appreciates Doug's willingness to attend Parks meetings and bring to EAC's attention any items needing our input. (We can read the Parks minutes on the website for a complete report of any meeting.)

- **Clean Energy Initiative: Rutger Boerema, Priyanka Kapadia, Tom Szwech**

Discussion: Buying clean energy with other Twps. West Chester is taking the lead. Rutger in contact with Kevin O'Neill to get this on the BoS agenda. Need to get records of electricity bills from Tredyffrin – contact Hilliary Mallory, Darin Fitzgerald. Tom will take over trying to get the information.

July 28th: Presentation on solar and other clean-energy choices at Tredyffrin Library.

Ask Hilliary Mallory: could we try to get electric cars to display at WFP Community Day?

New Business

- Community Day September 15: we will have a table. Need to plan further at August meeting.
- Stream-side activity October 6: Mary will take over from Katherine
- **Mary to find out from Pat Hoffman schedule for publications and postings and tell everyone.**
- **Denise to do event on air quality with Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.**

Tom: Next meeting: What can we do re: zoning?

Meeting adjourned 9:10 p.m.

Attached: Notes from Schuylkill Watershed Congress

**Schuylkill Watershed Congress 2018 March 10
Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown
EAC Attendees: Katherine Ridella, Mary Westervelt**

Learned from the keynote speakers:

Forests a necessary part in maintaining/restoring water quality. Forest lost in Delaware watershed at rate of 5,000 acres/year.

What drives forest loss?

- Pipelines: Roads, well pads, fracking waste/contamination
- Residential main forest-loss impact.

Sol'n:

- Responsible homeowner practices. Less clearing, more planting and preservation.
- Make sure all development has 40-50% forest cover.
- Require buffer protections alongside streams and rivers. Give 100-ft buffers. (Q: what about current in-place development? How to undo that?)
- Responsible zoning: Reduce parcel size, institute cluster zoning, no lots backing up to streams.

- Public money needed: Consider beneficiaries of watershed protection: Individuals who drink the water. Charge water users \$.01 more for protection and restoration, raise millions.

Response to my question re: other ways of funding:

- Look up Delaware River Keepers for funding.
- Compare NJ Highlands (<http://www.state.nj.us/njhighlands/>) incentives to encourage homeowners to landscape responsibly (see pp. 43-49 of the NJH 2008 report here: http://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/master/tr_land_use_conditions.pdf).
- Note Philadelphia use of alternatives to major engineering such as green roofs, permeable paving, rain gardens.

Response to question: All our trees are dying. Why?

- Forested areas: Trees are all of one age. Deer have probably eaten any sprouts.
- Suburbs: poor soil practices: turfgrass, mowing, pesticides and herbicides, pavement.

To Do items from conference:

- Yellow Springs Farm selling rain barrel for "show special" price of \$99; possible source for rain barrel giveaway? Mary or Katherine to contact them for price, see if we can get discount since we attended. (*This price is not substantially better than that of hardware stores or on line. MW*)
- City of Chester Green Infrastructure Stormwater Plan: Katherine spoke with someone from Sea Grants (Penn State) who helped develop it. They can go on a road show and present to us, can customize for our municipality's needs. Set up a presentation for EAC and supervisors, to consider making a township stormwater plan?
- "Overcoming Obstacles to Municipal Cooperation": presentation by Wissahickon, attended by Katherine and Mary. Created a partnership among several municipalities in Wissahickon Watershed, coordination by EPA and Wiss Watershed Association. Key is educating municipal officials. Can we get data on how our watershed is doing, share with officials and citizens?
Note: Wissahickon instituted lots of water monitoring at different points. **Tredyffrin: need to monitor water both above flood plains and in them.**