

Tredyffrin Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
14 February 2017

Present: Doug Anestad, Thomas Szwech, Mary Westervelt; Erin McPherson, Assistant Township Engineer, EJ Richter, Board of Supervisors Liaison. Calling in to vote: Priyanka Kapadia, Jim McLaughlin.

Minutes of the December 2016 meeting were accepted with a phone call to achieve quorum.

Reports

- **Doug:** Regarding progress contacting Gateway owner re: planting in floodplain (in connection with live-stake planting in March), Erin sent Doug contact info, Doug e-mailed John Hrinko, contact for Regency Centers, owner of the Gateway property; no response yet. Doug will try further to contact Hrinko. **Needs to happen in the next week or so (see Live Stake Giveaway/Planting, below).**
- **Mary:** Emerald ash borer and appropriate steps.

Mary spoke to **Luke Hamilton, Preserve Manager of Nat. Lands Trust's Saunders Woods Preserve in Gladwyne**, on a hike there. Luke recommended that the ash trees in Tredyffrin be inventoried. (He probably meant those in public space.) In particular, any that are likely to create hazards by falling on cars or people should be treated to kill emerald ash borer, or should be pro-actively removed. He pointed out that the cost of removing a tree is much greater than the cost of treating one. [Doug's comment: over the lifetime of a tree, treatment comes close to the cost of removing the tree.]

According to Luke, trees that are not located near roads or paths could be left to succumb. On the other hand, leaving trees that will then host emerald ash borer just prolongs the time during which desirable trees need to be protected.

Mary also called **Steve Shreiner of Shreiner Tree Service**.

Shreiner Tree Service has this info sheet posted:

<http://shreineretreecare.com/emerald-ash-borer-insect-fact-sheet/>

Shreiner has already discussed EAB with Matt Baumann, Assistant Twp. Manager/Director of Planning & Zoning – though not recently. It was not clear why Baumann was the chosen contact. Mary agreed to contact Baumann and find out what if anything he knows about Tredyffrin's response to EAB.

Steve Shreiner provided this information:

- Price of treating trees per Shreiner: \$11 to \$15 caliper inch (ball park \$200/tree). Will likely need to be done over the ten years of the infestation, every 2 to 3 years.
- A tree that dies from EAB becomes brittle very fast and is an immediate threat if near a road or park.

Shreiner had this advice:

- First step is inventory trees. Evaluate health and likelihood of liability.

- Get word out to residents. He will send more information.
 - steve@shreinertreecare.com
 - Steve is willing to come talk to EAC/BoS or to show people how to treat trees.

Erin stated that the Twp would only maintain trees in parks, Twp bldgs, and public areas such as parks. Even trees in medians would not be maintained.

- **Mary:** Backyard Bird Count information (BBC Feb. 17-18-19-20, lecture was given at Jenkins Feb. 11, 10:00 a.m.) A flyer regarding the count is on our web page.
- **Mary:** Thanks sent to participants in October Crabby Creek planting (those whose contact info was legible). I requested that they e-mail back to confirm that I had the correct address, and to confirm that they wanted to stay on a mailing list for further volunteer ops or events. So far three have responded.
- **Mary/Doug/Erin:** Report of meeting at Westover Bird Sanctuary. These three met with Steve Burgo, Sean Moir, Phil Whitmer (Bird Town Volunteer) Michele Hawk (Bird Town Volunteer), Paul Olsen, and Judy DiFilippo at Westover Bird Sanctuary to clarify protocol for working towards the goal of cleaning up the park and improving habitat/park function. It was decided that the missing piece has been a directive from Board of Supervisors to others, including the Township Engineer, laying out responsibilities. Sean and Doug drafted a proposal outlining how to move forward with development of the Sanctuary. The proposal was amended slightly at the EAC meeting to more clearly state that Parks Foundation has agreed to donate funds for signs. Motion to send the proposal to Board of Supervisors carried unanimously with phone call to achieve quorum.
- **Jim:** quotes, info re: EAC-logo tablecloth had been sent via e-mail. Mary posted the chart on Google Docs. We agreed to shelve discussion of this till next meeting.
Compare feather flag prices from EJ: <https://www.buildesign.com/feather-flags> probably 8' X 2', price \$44.

New Business

Discussion of live-stake planting or giveaway to be held in March.

Possible dates are March 18 or March 25. Final decision to be made once we know whether Gateway property can be planted. We will need to get information on the website, on information outlets such as Patch and Nextdoor, and through flyers, e-mail to the Crabby Creek volunteer list, and phone calls to the list from last year. The group should amplify the list of residents along Trout Creek. We have phone numbers and addresses (no e-mail) from last year's group. Should also put information in the Twp Newsletter.

We agreed to be in touch about this in the next couple of weeks since the next scheduled EAC meeting is in April, after the live-stake event.

Mary has found a source, Ernst Seeds in Erie, PA, for inexpensive live stakes of many species commonly found locally in wetlands. Stakes run \$0.60 to \$0.70 each depending on length and

thickness. Mary recommended getting *C. sericea* and others, to sell to residents at a little over cost and for planting in the floodplain owned by Gateway. This would be advantageous both environmentally and visually. A motion to spend up to \$200 on live stakes carried unanimously with phone call to achieve quorum.

Stakes would need to be ordered two weeks ahead of the target date. Mary will call to place the order once the date is decided.

Tom mentioned a study by Tom Coleman, of the Trout Creek Study Group, of the Trout Creek floodplain, probably including Gateway property. Tom will find the study and forward it to all. We could approach the group to help with live-stake planting.

Downed tubes at Crabby Creek: need for continued monitoring.

Sean Moir had sent an e-mail message to EJ stating that some tree tubes were down along Crabby Creek. Sean wondered whether a plan was in place for monitoring them.

Mary stated that she is in the habit of occasionally taking a mallet and walking the length of the road to right downed tubes and pound in the stakes. She will put out a message to the Crabby Creek volunteer list to see if a small group could spend a few hours on a Saturday to check them on a more regular basis. Doug pointed out that we should expand the volunteer call to include maintenance of the tubes at Wilson Farm Park. We righted some during last year's Live Stake Giveaway.

Discussion of **Grant proposals** was postponed to a later meeting.

Continuing discussion of EAC description and tasks 2017 was also postponed.

Tom briefly led a look through the list of tasks. It was explained that the items crossed out (set up an EAC listserv, give EAC access to the web page for posting) were not permitted by the Township. It was noted that some of the items on the list had proposed dates that were already past. We need to focus on both description and tasks at the April meeting.

Letter from a township resident.

Erin read a letter that had been posted on the door for EAC attention. This was an e-mail message to Pat Hoffman from Liza Millman, 1401 Yellow Springs Road, who had observed large numbers of toads crossing Yellow Springs Road, apparently in springtime migration from forest to a pond for breeding, last March. The Schuylkill Center outside of Philadelphia annually organizes efforts to help migrating toads cross Port Royal Rd. near the Center. Liza wondered if Tredyffrin could do something similar. Mary agreed to contact Liza and continue the conversation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55p.m.