

Tredyffrin Township Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
11 April 2017

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

Minutes of the February 2017 meeting were accepted as amended:

- Doug noted that, regarding ash borer treatment cost, cost of treating over lifespan is closer to cost of removing tree.
- Doug also noted suggestion to change wording on “calling in to vote”

Live Stake Giveaway Event, 3/25

- Majority of Resident Participants at live stake event (27) learned of initiative via community message boards. None from Tredyffrin/EAC website.
- Tree tubes at Wilson Farm Park were straightened/weeded and refuse was collected during the event.
- Mary has e-mailed all participants, asked them to notify whether stakes grow, & sent information regarding native plant sales.
- Mary recommends that next year we schedule the event for the last weekend of March, order 200 mixed species live stakes, sell first-come-first-served, and plant remaining in Wilson Farm Park, Crabby Creek, and Westover.
- Tom suggested the Board consider an option to offer planting support in future years.
- Doug indicated that Gateway shopping center never responded to an offer to plant along Trout Creek, still pursuing for next year.
- Pete indicates willows (black/bush) and red osier dogwood live stakes take best, with sunlight and sufficient moisture. Stakes can be planted later if you keep them dormant.

Emerald ash borer

- PA.gov hosting a presentation by Don Egger. Shawn Moir, Hilliary Mallory, Andrew Levin (P&R Board) looking to get Girl/Boy scouts to inventory ash trees on township’s public properties.
- Next messaging in monthly e-newsletter hardcopy/quarterly (next summer) should be related to education and solicitation for support in ash tree count.
- Priyanka suggests connecting with local tree service vendors for count approximations.
- Doug will connect with P&R and jointly post educational info or events.

Banners/table cloth

- Priyanka and Erin will send font and logo to Jim for order of a white banner with green Tredyffrin logo and green text for approximately \$230.
- Objective is to have banner by 4/29 YMCA Healthy Kids event.
- Motion to purchase, approved.

Outreach opportunities

- Tredyffrin EAC has been offered an information table free of charge at **Healthy Kids Day, 29 April** @ YMCA of Greater Brandywine (formerly UMLY): Time: 10:00 a.m – 1:00 pm.
Contact = Brian Raicich.

Collaboration/networking opportunities-

- Pete Goodman described a past Crabby Creek macroinvertebrate survey revealed mayflies, caddisflies, and crawfish, as well as a fingerling trout – all signs of good water health – and mentioned that the Academy of Natural Sciences is also doing a study in Radville.
- Tom suggests joining forces with Trout Unlimited to work toward common goal and opening lines of communication. Discussed were possible Conestoga High School improvements, rain barrels if a source can be found locally. Our job would be to educate how to install and use the collected water. Mary suggested one way to present the stormwater focus would be to say: "Some communities have a stormwater tax. To avoid Tredyffrin needing to add such a tax, take responsibility for keeping stormwater on your property." (Erin: West Chester just instituted a stormwater tax based on area of impervious surfaces. Radnor has similar – likely needed because Villanova, huge property owner/paver, is tax exempt.)
- Mary noted that there are efforts being made here and there in Tredyffrin to improve stormwater control: pervious pavement on paths at Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens and in some of Liberty properties, green roofs on some buildings. A future article should highlight these efforts.
- Tom would like to develop EAC's own recurring publication/platform to communicate to our own distribution list. EJ suggests that informal electronic communications to residents would not be an issue. Example platforms include Constant Contact, Mail Chimp. Mary assembled e-versions of all emails from previous contacts in our Google database. Goal would be that other organizations contribute to the outgoing messages to the web list. Video postings would also be useful.
Tom will determine best platform, structure, and administration. Erin requests Township review all shared messaging and documents in advance. Current understanding is that information needs to be vetted.

EAC Description on website

- Comments outstanding on shared Google Doc. Mary will finalize and send to Gabrielle Ignarri (in Twp Engineering) for posting.
- Doug asks when EAC terms expire, Erin indicated that Pat Hoffman tracks and issues notice when reapplication is necessary. Currently an EAC vacancy if new members are interested.

New Business

Local Light Pollution

- Noted by residents at live stake event. EJ indicates this has been previously run to ground with the BOS. Lights have been found to be in compliance with code so no action could be taken. Similar complaints by residents living in vicinity of schools, negative effects on biota.
- Mary asks- what are environmental consequences (bird strikes)? Understanding of ordinances and how they applied should be first step (E-Code: subdivision and land use ordinance- Chapter 181). Mary will visit applicable lighting Code and relay findings to the group.

EAC and Valley Creek Restoration Partnership

- Mary attended meeting 15 March 2017: Steve Burgo explained MS4 regulations and requirements for upcoming September 'permitting.' Primary message for EAC was that education is paramount – what's been done in the Township and what residents could be doing to keep stormwater on their property. Report of VCRP meeting posted on Google Docs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 13 June 2017, 7:00 p.m., Tredyffrin Township Building.