

**Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
February 7th, 2023**

Members in Attendance:

Lisa Brown, Co-Chair (via Zoom)
Mark Schafer, Co-Chair
Rea Monaghan (via Zoom)
Maureen Nunn
Marianne Grey
Brenda Doll
Steve Saffier

Associate Members: Rich Valiga

Board of Supervisors Liaison: Mike Twersky

Staff In Attendance: Sandi Feight

Not in Attendance:

Tessie McNeely, Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Organizational Items-review of appointments and officers-** Brenda has been approved by the BOS to be a full-time member, much appreciation was expressed for being an associate member.
3. **Minutes.** January meeting minutes were approved with adding the mention of the Green Award discussion.
4. **Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular agenda, and any other items to be considered as part of the Regular Agenda –** Nothing to move from the consent agenda to the regular agenda.
5. **Approval of Regular Agenda.** Agenda approved
6. **Consent Agenda.**
7. **Old Business -**
 - a. Calendar – confirm/establish dates for:
 - a. Brenda suggested creating a google calendar to share with all EAC members to show all of the following.
 - i. Ramp cleanups – Spring 4/15 & Fall 11/4

- ii. Storm Drain Marking - 4/1
 - iii. Possible garden clean ups – tentatively 5/6
 - a. Ingersoll House
 - b. EAC Volunteers ~ Rea or Suzanne
 - c. EAC will reach out to corporations for volunteers, Boy & Girl Scout Groups
 - iv. Composting workshop – 5/20
 - a. One large event for the Composting workshop. Film it and use for educational webinar in the future. Can contact Penn State cooperative extension for help if needed.
 - v. Timeframe for Green Award – with approval from the BOS, given out at the Fall Volunteer dinner ~ possibly
 - a. Maureen will need assistance from the EAC members
 - vi. E-Newsletter deadlines – Brenda has all of those dates in her calendar will add.
 - vii. Bird walks – every 3rd Friday of the month
 - viii. Tree giveaway – 10/14
 - a. Will need a proclamation for Arbor Day
 - ix. Other – Lisa has put together a calendar for this year with EAC events; will schedule and add things that are missing.
 - a. Ambler Earth Fest 4/29
 - b. Wissahickon Creek Cleanup 4/29
 - c. Montgomery County Hazardous Waste Collection Dates
- b. Volunteer needs –
- i. Ramp clean-up will need a Police Officer & Public Work Staff. Public Work staff will need to pick the trash bags up on Monday 4/17 and 11/6. Lisa will contact PennDOT and ask for a no mow before the scheduled ramp clean up dates.
 - ii. Tree Give Away
 - a. Public Works Friday to setup/Saturday to help move trees
 - b. Community volunteers
 - iii. Contact Wissahickon High School and the environmental clubs about the storm drain markings. Would need 16 people to start, have a meet and greet & some light snacks.
 - iv. Will reach out to the boy/girl scouts about adopting the garden at Ingersoll House for garden cleanup. It is in need of maintenance. Public Works is taking care of the garden at the community building. Brightview is contracted with the township to take care of the landscaping needs and the garden at the township building. Sandi will clarify how the contract with Brightview is written for the Township Building and Ingersoll House.
 - v. Included in the Spring newsletter & monthly e-newsletters will be a sign-up genius link to volunteer for events.
- c. Budget request for new stream signs
- i. EAC is gathering a new list for more stream signs.
 - ii. Would like to add their logo on a separate sign below the stream crossing signs. Will need investigate appropriate size sign.
- d. Staff Liaison report (Sandi)
- i. Sandi informed the committee that the Techno trash boxes have arrived. Battery buckets were shipped back and we are waiting for new buckets. 8 bins of Christmas

lights have been collected this year. Sandi has asked that someone from the committee let her know how many safety vests are needed for the storm drain projects.

- e. Energy Committee ~ “in lieu of” proposal for waiver request by developers
 - a. Maureen asked to be a part of the energy committee so that she can have a greater knowledge of what type of questions to ask during the Planning Commission meetings for sustainability
 - b. Mike wanted to clarify that the Board of Supervisors makes the final decision regarding any alternatives to the “fee in lieu,” not the Planning Commission
 - c. Rich said the list was a good start and that the Planning Commission may also have some items to add as alternatives.
 - d. Discussed options for township’s response to developers’ request for waivers: propose alternative or additional ways to qualify for tree caliper waiver and address storm water issues related to tree removal; electrify HVAC/hot water systems; promote renewable energy infrastructure; promote energy efficiency; and install eco-friendly lighting. These will be discussed more fully at a future meeting.

8. New Business

- a. New proposed tree ordinances: comments and questions
 - i. Tree Clear Cutting Ordinance: Avoid having a developer clear cutting a lot before they submitted their development plan. Mike asked if the EAC had any comments for him to take back. After Mike explained Land Development and the purpose of the ordinance the EAC was fine with the wording.
 - ii. Flag Lot Ordinance ~ amending: the access strip serving any flag lot shall have a minimum width of 50’ and shall not exceed 300’ length. Less land for the developer to develop, allowing it to be more natural.

9. Standing Items

- i. Maureen is one of the liaisons between the EAC and the Planning Commission. She attended the meeting on 1/18. From a local residents’ standpoint there had been significant concerns initially with the Cedar Hill project regarding water and trees. These were addressed by the developer to the satisfaction of residents attending the 1/18 meeting. Station Lane, division of a property line. Regarding 1345 Sumneytown Pike – GMAHS – Maureen asked to discuss their sustainability efforts; they are trying to be more sustainable. Efforts include upgrades to the heating system and a design that allows for more natural light and therefore lower light usage. They also looked at heat pumps, but they were considered too expensive and rejected. The developer is formulating a more complete list of their sustainability efforts.

10. Points of interest/General comments

- a. The energy discussion will be postponed until next meeting

Meeting concluded @ 8:39 p.m.

Next meeting: TUESDAY, March 7, 2023