

East Vincent Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
January 18, 2023, 6:30 PM

Elaine Milito opened the meeting at 6:33PM. In attendance were Chris Orzechowski, Molly Wagle, and Michele Adams. Also in attendance was Township Manager, Catherine Ricardo. There was 1 guest.

1. Meeting minutes from November 16, 2022 were shared. There was a motion to approve the minutes.

Moved: C. Orzechowski

Second: M. Adams

Vote: Unanimous

2. Old Business

- A. Articles for Newsletters

- i. Newsletter: Ideal to have an article every other month in the e-newsletter (only a sentence or two with a link to click). For paper newsletters, a paragraph is ideal. Content can also be repurposed for website.

- Molly to resend salt management & energy savings topics
- Future topics
 - a. Riparian buffer (M. Adams)
 - b. Idling cars (M. Wagle)
 - c. Native plants (E. Milito)
 - i. invasives
 - d. Water- related topic (C. Orzechowski)
 - e. C. Canale will bring an article
 - f. Yard cleanup
 - g. Pollinator garden

- B. Pollinator Garden

- i. Location

- Ideal to start w/ the raised bed on the patio of the Township Building
- Action Item: Catherine to get dimensions

- ii. Plants

- Prairie Nursery can provide plugs (max \$500)
- The creator of the West Vincent Township pollinator garden can get plant plugs for \$1.50/ea

- iii. Approval

- EVT has a budget for the ornamental plants that would have been installed in the raised bed and funding could potentially be reallocated
- Submit a plan including the layout, cost, as well as include language for signage for 1) when freshly planted, 2) in season, 3) during winter

- iv. Volunteers

- Elaine to ask in East Vincent Voices for volunteers to plant the pollinator garden on Earth Day
- v. Future Steps:
 - EAC needs to educate public works
 - a. On a professional job, there are often pictures of 'don't pull these' and pull everything else
 - b. Ideal to make a video while planting for YouTube to share with those that cannot attend planting
 - Certify the garden through Penn State Extension Nurture Nature Center and/or Homegrown Garden
 - a. If certified through Penn State, they will send out professional resources
- vi. Future funding (for projects beyond this pollinator garden)
 - Michelle can write an application for grants, through Schuylkill Highlands (due in spring) and PECO due in the fall, to fund a future pollinator garden
 - a. Schuylkill Highlands grant would be ideal for pollinator plants
 - b. PECO grant would be ideal for a professional to remove invasives
 - Catherine can look into matching funds for grants

C. Independence Park

- i. Doug Schmitt will be the P&R liaison for the EAC
- ii. Any proposal the EAC has for a pollinator/ rain garden at Independence Park would be outside the phase 1 and 2 because the scope 1 and 2 is fixed. Any proposal would need to be approved by P&R. Elaine and Catherine will relay to P&R.
 - Phase 1 and 2 will likely kick off in the fall
 - Master plan may need to be revised

D. Website Content

- i. Topics for newsletter/ website (see section A)

3. New Business

A. Update on township issues

- i. Chester County's Forging a Common Environmental Agenda:
 - <https://chescoenvtalliance.files.wordpress.com/2022/11/ccea-cea-10-20-22.pdf>
 - Water: Plants & Water Quality, Education, Natural Water Filtration and Maintenance
 - a. Map showing all the degraded streams, nice to see that French Creek is mostly pristine, but some of the tributaries are degraded. Stoney Run is entirely degraded.
 - i. Proposal to educate residents along the Stoney Run, as well as working with incoming development

b. Township is under mandate to address the impaired waterways. There are projects that are underway and perhaps the EAC can partner with. EVT has to demonstrate how we are reducing our impairments to the waterway and need to report yearly to DEP.

i. Township is addressing through many initiatives

1. There is a very heavy degraded drainage basin near the 7 stars development, and the applicant is committed to contributing \$50,000 for this.
2. At community day would be great to speak to all of the projects related to water

- Some residents want ideas on how to prevent erosion and don't know what to do

a. Perhaps after Earth Day, Riparian Buffer education paired with climate change education is ideal

B. NCC-EAC meeting is at 7:00pm on January 30th via zoom

4. Open Discussion/Public Comment: No open discussion or public comment.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: C. Orzechowski Second: M. Adams Vote: Unanimous