

East Vincent Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
October 11, 2023, 7:00 PM

Elaine Milito opened the meeting at 7:00PM. In attendance were Chris Orzechowski, Chris Canale, Michele Adams, and Molly Wagle. Also in attendance was Township Manager, Robert A. Zienkowski. There were no guests.

1. Meeting minutes from September 13, 2023 were shared. There was a motion to approve the minutes.

Moved: C. Orzechowski Second: C. Canale Vote: Unanimous

2. Old Business

- A. Update on Ongoing Projects

- i. Grant Writing

- Board asked to have a staff person or 3rd party consultant support grant writing, and Bob looking into expense. If a staff individual, this person could also support external communications/social media and other functions, in addition to grants
- If there are any grants EVT EAC identifies, can talk to Green Valley Watershed Association for advice/ potential support
- Potential funding for the grant matches: Idea for using “fee in lieu of planting trees” for matching grants was raised. It was discussed that prior to using such funds, the ordinances need to be more defined to dictate where such funds go, so they don’t go into a general bucket
- How to start the grant process
 - a. First, identify what EAC wants to accomplish
 - i. Action Item: Ask Rachael what grants are available for trailing 12 and what is coming
 - b. Then start coordinating with Open Space Committee (OSC) and Parks & Recreation (P&R) to understand where projects can be undertaken, and what would be the impact(s)
 - c. Action Item: Bob to look into whether the township needs to improve Stony Run
 - d. Recommend understanding what the township is obligated to do, as well as what are the low hanging fruits to identify ideal initial projects
 - e. Create a detailed scope of each initiative to have ready and available for a grant writer when hired

- i. What is it, what does it take, what is the benefit
 - Specific grants discussed:
 - a. Chester County Grant deadline passed. Two specific grants awarded were specific to riparian buffers and landowner engagement: ~\$50k to Willistown Conservation Trust & ~\$50k to Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
 - i. A riparian buffer grant would require a riparian buffer plan ahead of time
 - b. PECO Grant: too late to work on, as due in early November
 - c. PARRC
 - i. Presented to the board 2 years ago; there were concerns from the BOS from PARRC in the past; may be something to consider in the future
 - ii. Need to understand how many municipalities apply and breakdown of issued grants
 - iii. Depending on the outcome of breakdown, Chris Canale may be able to write an executive summary
 - ii. Township Garden Update
 - There is a new sign in the garden addressing leaving the garden “as is” over winter to benefit insects and wildlife
 - In the spring, garden will need to be thinned out due to plants self seeding
 - Action Item: Elaine and Molly to find a new site for a secondary garden to put the thinned-out plants in
 - iii. Website Update
 - Minutes need to be uploaded to website
 - Action Item: Elaine to talk to Haley about loading other content
- B. Updates on Recent Events
 - i. Community Day
 - Success! Multiple residents stopped by the EAC table to learn more about the garden, native plants, and invasive species
 - ii. Norther Chester County Clean Energy Futures – no updates for this month
 - iii. Report on NCC-EAC’s meeting on 8/31 w/ Katie Muth
 - Slaughterhouse is a problem due to gasoline contamination, West Vincent Land Trust got some brownfield funding for cleanup
 - Land recycling cleanup on township municipal location, likely was from fuel tanks but unknown for certain
 - iv. Chester County Sustainability Summit – great event and well attended by government, industry, non-profits, academic, EAC members, residents, and more
 - Molly shared slides with EVT EAC members after summit
 - v. WeConserve PA – EAC Recommendation on Ordinance Adoption

- Recommend sending an executive summary to the BOS to keep them informed on EAC activities
- In the future, EAC and other groups will have a meeting with the board. EAC to propose what we want to work on, then we ask the BOS what they want us to do
- Committees were recommended

3. New Business

A. Projects

- i. Earth Day – no discussion
- ii. Riparian Buffers
 - If at Independence Park, need to work with Parks & Recreations
 - [East Vincent MS4 Report](#)
 - a. Each cycle, the township needs to show pollutant reduction, and includes stormwater management, education, and public participation
 - b. East Vincent needs to adopt the county’s Stormwater Management Ordinance, Act 167. EVT can be more stringent, but EVT must be adopt this ordinance at a minimum. Recommend to adopt the ordinance now, as is, to minimize the amount of time that EVT does not have a stormwater management ordinance.

Motion to ask the BOS to adopt the Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance

Moved: E. Milito

Second: C. Canale

Vote: Unanimous

- Committee/ Club Formation: Recommendation as residents are interested, to create clubs with no decision making authority for education, engagement, and implementation of actions stemming from EAC. Potential topics discussed were as follows: Native Gardens, Climate Change, and Stormwater. Stormwater would just be pointing to exiting experts and resources
 - a. For homeowners, refer to Delaware River Keepers documentation
- iii. Comprehensive Stormwater Plan – draft released and open for comment by November 17
- iv. Ordinance Creation: still working on the zoning section
 - Model Riparian Buffer Protection Overlay District
 - FPR Ordinance
 - Data Center
 - a. Would want to do this first, since there is a data center coming into Pennhurst pretty quickly
 - b. We can start a document, do our research, report on it in a public meeting

- c. Action Item: Everyone review the ordinance information on data centers. Molly to send out information based on the article Michele shared and everyone can provide feedback prior to next meeting, in order to discuss and recommend next meeting
 - Community Solar
 - EAC input will be critical to these and other ordinances
 - v. Development Plans are now on the website
 - Action Item: BOS recommended EAC review the new Ruth Track plan
 - Would be ideal for the EAC to review copies beforehand
 - B. Upcoming Events
 - i. WeConserve PA EAC Meeting at WCU on October 21, 2023
 - ii. French & Pickering Creek is doing an invasive walk
 - iii. Independence Park Walk (invasives, creek survey)
 - iv. Chester County 'Watersheds 2045' Draft public review and comment through November 17
 - Can EVT EAC request the county to do a presentation for us or give an overview? Elaine to ask Rachel
4. Discussion
- A. Open Space Committee (OSC) meeting recently held
 - i. Should coordinate with this group on riparian buffers
 - ii. EAC to talk to OSC and P&R on best location for riparian buffers
 - iii. OSC talked about doing a comprehensive GIS mapping through Chester County Planning (ChescoViews may not have all the layers) which will include where riparian buffers are and are not
 - B. Recommendation to have specialized engineers (ex. stormwater engineer, traffic engineer, etc.) as a consultant to review development plants, at the expense of the developer. It's difficult for a general engineer to review all issues (like asking a primary care doctor to do heart surgery).
 - C. There is a proposal for 3rd party inspector to inspect developments and the buildings, at the expense of the developer
5. Public Comment: none
6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: C. Orzechowski

Second: M. Adams

Vote: Unanimous