

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA
Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:00 PM

Present: EAC members Bob Yeats (Chair), Ray Dandrea (Vice Chair), Mike Gioia, Meghan Hanney, Adam Kapp, and Parks Coordinator Pam Packard. Russ Hatton and Joe Debes were absent. There were two guests.

I. Call to Order

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Pam Packard was filling in for Mila Carter, who had to attend another meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes, May 28, 2024

Ray made a motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2024. Meghan seconded. There was no public comment and the motion passed 6-0.

III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

Janet Kestenberg Amighi, 1461 Overhill Road, expressed interest in the EAC's activities, and asked what they are working on. Meghan stated that the EAC's current initiatives will be discussed tonight under Old Business, and that Janet's comments and questions were welcome.

IV. Old Business

A. Riparian Buffer Restoration Project in Plumly Open Space

Meghan stated that she and Ray had been visiting the site every other Wednesday morning to maintain the work done in April, but that the recent heat wave has prevented them from working. Ray asked if they could go at 7:00 AM. Pam stated that it was her understanding from Mila that the EAC was not to continue additional work in Plumly until a proposal for long-term management of the project is presented and approved by the Board of Supervisors, as was requested by Supervisor Pomerantz at the Board's June 17 meeting. Joe Debes drafted a proposal dated June 20, which will be put before the BOS for consideration at their next meeting on July 15. Meghan expressed concern about losing ground to invasive growth, and was also eager to plant 13 free trees offered by Brian Winslow at Brandywine Red Clay Alliance. Bob reminded her that the application of herbicide as proposed in the long-term maintenance plan will be more effective than ongoing manual removal. Pam asked about the size of the free trees. Meghan replied that they are plugs. Pam suggested planting the plugs in pots and nursing them at member homes until they can be planted in late fall or early next spring, when they will have a better chance of survival.

B. Bird Town PA

Ray stated that Westtown's Bird Town Committee needs to establish a meeting schedule to discuss next steps. He said that Mila had suggested meeting before the EAC meetings. The group discussed meeting every other month. Ray will follow up

with Dick Pomerantz and Allyson Debes to determine if they are available on July 23 at 6:30 PM.

C. Roadside Trash Removal

Mike stated that he drove along Route 926 between Shady Grove Way and S. New Street and did not observe a significant amount of trash. Ray maintained that there was a significant amount of trash inside the guiderail on the south side of 926. Pam reminded the group that 926 is the Township border, and the south side is Thornbury Twp., Chester Co. and Thornbury Twp., Delaware Co. Pam added that the Township has no jurisdiction on state roads, and that per Mila, the EAC should address Township-owned roads. Pam stated that she often observes trash on both sides of the Oakbourne Bridge near the Wild Goose Farm. She also offered safety vests and Garbo grabbers.

D. Westtown Day

Adam apologized for not having drafted a write up of proposed EAC activities at Westtown Day. The group suggested several ideas to engage residents. Mike suggested showing photos of birds and playing recordings of their songs, and having participants try to match the birdsong to the picture. Pam recommended contacting Home Depot to see if they would donate some wood birdhouse kits that could be given as prizes for the bird call activity. She also offered wildflower seed packets that Agway Wild Bird Center donated for the P&R Egg Hike, which had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

V. New Business

A. 2024 Healing the Planet Grant Application

At their June 17 meeting, the Board of Supervisors authorized Township staff to submit an application for the 2024 Healing the Planet Grant Program sponsored by the Giant Company for trees and tree planting supplies in the maximum grant amount of \$4,000 to be used in the Plumly Farms open space. Pam stated that the group needed to make a motion to retroactively support the grant application. Andy made the motion, seconded by Bob. The motion passed 5-0.

VI. BOS Report

Joe attended the June 15 Board of Supervisors meeting, but he was not present to provide a recap.

Adam agreed to attend the July 17 Board of Supervisors meeting.

VII. Public Comment

Janet sought advice from the EAC on the process for getting the Board to endorse voluntary reduction of single use plastics, and to support other environmental measures

such as using electric tools, and reducing light pollution. The EAC recommended attending the Board of Supervisors meeting to voice her views.

VIII. Announcements

None

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Packard, Parks Coordinator

DRAFT