



Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
May 3, 2017

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. Present were, Ivy Ross, Vice Chairman; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Barbara Brown, Member; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Lynn Laurelli, Member (via phone); Fred Gaines, Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission Liaison, and Joseph Blinebury, member of the public.

Mr. Suffian led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Comment-** Mr. Blinebury introduced himself and shared some of his areas of interest with the group. He explained that he is interested in learning what we do as an EAC and how he may be able to participate.
3. **Approval of Minutes -** On motion by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Ms. Weremeychik, the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

4. **Business:**

- a. **Return on the Environment-** Mr. Suffian discussed the presentation that Mr. Rodgers, of Keystone Conservation, gave at the April WEAC meeting. Mr. Suffian would like the WEAC to work with Keystone Conservation. He feels that by putting a dollar value on natural resources, it will make it easier to prioritize resources. Mr. Rodgers refers to this as, a “Green Ribbon Approach”. Some of these resources include, but are not limited to, stormwater, habitat, and wetlands.

Some of Keystone Conservation’s methods of developing a strategy to educate their costumers include:

1. Placing a dollar value on implementing developed stewardship.
2. Training employees in ways to naturalize parks and open spaces.
3. Teaching residents how to implement backyard conservation using native plants.
4. Creating green spots within the local community.

Keystone Conservations fee would include some in-kind donation hours to develop a final plan, which Mr. Suffian feels can be incorporated into Warrington Townships Open Space Plan. Mr. Rodgers has put together a proposal that the WEAC can look at, including proposed activities and associated fees. Ms. Ross recommended that Ms. Laurelli update the WEAC in a few weeks, as she is currently taking one of Mr. Rodgers online courses. Possibly this will help the committee make an educated decision as to weather or not we move forward in working with Mr. Rodgers.

- b. Managing Natural Open Spaces-** Mr. Suffian explained that he and some of the WEAC members met with Mr. Knox from Public Works, and field viewed some sites. The group chose several sites to stop mowing this spring. These sites include the Valley Road Pump Station, the Palomino and Valley Road detention basin, the Guinea Lane and Turkey Trot Lane open space and detention basin, and the Bristol and Red Oak Roads detention basin. Some of the WEAC naturalized detention basins will no longer be mowed. These include the Billingsley Drive and Stump Road basin, the Guinea Lane and Warwick Road basin, the Guinea Lane and Green Ridge Road basin, and the Morning Walk Drive and Evening Walk Lane basin as well as the Orchard Place basin. Ms. Laurelli wrote a letter that we could send to residents living adjacent to the proposed no mow areas describing the benefits of the no mow proposal.

Mr. Gaines recommended that he discuss this with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) prior to sending out the letters.

- c. Butterfly Garden-** Ms. Ross and Ms. Brown, worked with the Titus Elementary school students at the end of March to prepare the ground for the Butterfly Garden. We laid newspapers, coffee grounds and compost over the area. We will be checking back in a few weeks to make sure the grass underneath is being eradicated. Hopefully we will be planting the garden, with the students, soon after Community Service Day.
- d. Eagle Scout-Screech Owl Boxes-** Ms. Brown has been working with Riley Dessino, an Eagle Scout Candidate, on acquiring the necessary materials to begin his project of building 15 screech owl boxes.
- e. Wrap Up-Earth Day at Valley Square -** The Valley Square Earth Day event was held on Saturday April 22, 2017. The committee promoted butterflies and pollinators. Crafts for the kids included paper mache butterfly kits, butterfly bracelets and butterfly stickers. Burpee Butterfly Seed mix packets were given away.

There was an invasive plant display and the Enviroscape. There was a rain barrel display, and blue bird, screech owl boxes and bat houses were sold. We also had a plant swap. Unfortunately, it was not a good weather day; therefore we did not have as much public participation as we have had in past years.

f. Wrap Up-Tree Planting at Lower Nike- April 23, 2017- The WEAC planted 17 large trees. If these trees were purchased from a nursery, they would have cost \$250.00 to \$300.00 each. We were able to purchase them for \$40.00 each. These trees were planted in Lower Nike Park. The planting begun at the bathrooms, along both sides of the trail, connecting to the cluster and tree planting project we had in the fall. We had a total of 40 volunteers from the Central Bucks South National Honor Society throughout the day.

g. Summer Maintenance- Mr. Gaines suggested that the WEAC contact the Warrington Soccer Club to see if they would be willing to do some summer maintenance on our gardens. Ms. Ross will follow up.

h. Community Service Day 2017- This years Community Service Day event is May 20, 2017, with a rain date of May 21,

The cluster-planting project at Lower Nike will be the WEAC's major focus project this year. Ms. Ross has placed an order with Octorara Native Plant Nursery for 114 trees and shrubs. She will arrange for a separate PA One Call for the entire area for the shrub planting. Mr. Suffian will take the lead on this project. Mr. McCann, Mr. Gross and Ms. Brown will also work on this project.

Mr. Baratz and Mr. Weremeychik will build rain barrels, blue birdhouses and bat houses.

Ms. Weremeychik will be in charge of the flower planting.

Ms. Fairs and Ms. Kuter will be in charge of the rain garden and the butterfly garden.

Mr. Bonella will be in charge of the Hidden Court maintenance.

Ms. Ross will work between all projects.

Mr. Gaines and Ms. Baker will work with the food.

There are several items Ms. Ross has purchased or will be purchasing. They include:

1. 10 rain barrel kits
2. 4 more bat house kits
3. Perennials for the Butterfly Garden
4. 60 tree tubes

Ms. Ross will continue to solicit the food and equipment donations.

i. Open Space Update- Mr. Gaines reported that the landowner has accepted the appraisal of the land connecting the bridge along Street Road to the PECO trail.

Ms. Ross said there are no other Open Space updates.

j. Future Agenda Items- There are no future agenda items.

5. **Adjourn:** Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 pm. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Ivy Ross, Vice- Chairman, WEAC