



Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
August 2, 2017

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Ivy Ross, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:31 P.M. Present were, Todd Baratz, Secretary; Barbara Brown, Member; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Scott Vogin, Bike and Hike, Liaison; Lynn Laurelli, Member; Fred Gaines, Planning Commission Liaison and Board of Supervisors; Carol Baker, Board of Supervisors; Steve McCann and Zijun Xu, members of the public.

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

2. **Public Comment-** Mr. Zijun Xu, a graduate of Central Bucks High School South, would like to volunteer for the WEAC during the month of August, until he leaves for college. Ms. Brown and Ms. Laurelli will meet Mr. Xu at the Rain Garden and Butterfly Garden to explain what needs to be done at the two sites.

Ms. Ross asked if he would be interested in creating some small signs for the no- mow areas. Ms. Ross and Mr. Xu will speak further about the signs via phone.

3. **Approval of Minutes** – A few spelling errors were pointed out to Ms. Ross. On motion by Mr. Weremeychik and seconded by Mr. Baratz, the amended minutes of the July 5, 2017 meeting, were approved. All were in favor.

4. **Business:**

- a. **Return on the Environment-** Ms. Ross explained that Mr. Rodgers, of Keystone Conservation, has developed some initial mappings and is working on a preliminary report. Mr. Rodgers creating a fact sheet for the WEAC to use as a handout for Warrington Day. Mr. Suffian emailed this fact sheet to everyone and would like to get input as soon as possible.

- b. **Managing Natural Open Spaces-** Mr. Gaines explained that The Clean Water Act controls non-point sources and regulates pollutant discharges into waters of the United States. Basins collect nutrients and help to filter the water before entering streams. The Township engineer has selected four basins that should be naturalized as part of a five-year plan. Fortunately, the WEAC has been naturalizing basins for many years, so the Township is already 80 % complete, under this plan. Ms. Ross spoke with Mr. Rieder and

Mr. Luber concerning the large amount of maintenance needed on these basins, after they are planted. The Township has agreed that Public Works will work under the direction of the WEAC to maintain these four basins going forward.

- c. **Upcoming Tree Vitalize Grant-** Ms. Ross explained that the deadline for the upcoming Tree Vitalize grant is due in December 2017. A meeting with the Bucks County Conservation district to field view the four proposed basins is set up for September 12, 2017.

- d. **Warrington Day 2017-** Ms. Weremeychik and Ms. Laurelli are working on the “Thank You” posters for those businesses that made significant donations to Community Service Day, 2017. Ms. Weremeychick would like to display these posters at our Warrington Day booth on September 23, 2017.

At the request of Mr. Suffian, Ms. Laurelli is creating a handout titled “Best Native Plants for Backyard Gardening”. Ms. Laurelli is using an article entitled “Gardening For Life”, by Doug Tallamy, as an example. This research discusses how to sustain birds and insects.

Mr. Gaines recommended putting together a list of Native Plants that would thrive in our area, as a handout.

Ms. Brown asked the committee if they wanted her to see if she could get the trees from Bartlett Tree Experts to give away again this year. Everyone was in favor of getting those trees for give a ways. Ms. Brown will follow up with Bartlett Tree Experts.

- e. **Summer Maintenance-** Mr. Xu would like to help out with summer maintenance at IPW and John Paul Park at Lower Nike.

Ms. Ross explained that Mr. Suffian has arranged for two soccer clubs, one from Warrington and one from Warminster, to weed the trees and shrubs planted at John Paul Park at Lower Nike prior to their scrimmage game on August 26, 2017. He will email the committee to see who from the WEAC would be available to help with the event.

- f. **Open Space Update-** Mr. Gaines explained that Ms. Toole, from Toole Recreation Planning, is planning to hold a meeting with some focus groups in September 2017. The goal is to find out what kind of recreational facilities within the Township they would prefer. This information will be included in the Open Space and Parks and Recreation Plan that Ms. Toole is currently working on.

- g. **Future Agenda Items-** The group will discuss having a Native Plant Sale on Earth Day, Sunday April 22, 2018. At the September 6, 2017 meeting, we will discuss if we should take orders for these plants at Warrington Day.

- 5. Adjourn:** Ms. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Ivy Ross

Vice- Chairman, WEAC