



Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
January 2, 2019

- 1) Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. Present were, Ivy Ross, Vice-Chairman; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Barbara Brown, Member; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Lynn Laurelli, Member; Fred Gaines, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Ruth Schemm, Board of Supervisors; Zijun Xu, Member of the Public.

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

- 2) Public Comment** – Mr. Xu, who has worked with the WEAC on many projects, was home from college on break. He wanted to request that the WEAC and the Central Bucks South National Honor Society clean up trash from some of the Township basins. He also thought we could clean out the blue birdhouses inside the basins.
- 3) Approval of Minutes** – Ms. Laurelli pointed out that on page 3, under End of the Year Purchases, should read, “we invest in **an** EAC stamp”. On motion by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weremeychik, the minutes, as amended, of the December 5, 2018 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

4) Business:

a) Election of Officers-

- Chairman- Ms. Ross made a motion to elect Mr. Suffian as Chairman. Ms. Laurelli seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Vice-Chairman- Mr. Weremeychik made a motion to elect Ms. Ross Vice-Chairman. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Secretary- Ms. Laurelli nominated Mr. Baratz as secretary. Mr. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

b) Eagle Scout Projects-

- **Pollinator Garden-** Daniel Haschets, Eagle Scout candidate, will be building and planting a Monarch Waystation in John Paul Park, adjacent to the WEAC’s cluster planting project. His plan is to build one raised bed and leave an area behind it to grow naturally. The total project area will be approximately 8’ x 15’. He will plant

Milkweed and meadow plants in the natural area, and plant the raised bed with plants that will attract butterflies. Ms. Brown will look into where to order the Milkweed plants. Ms. Brown made a motion that the WEAC spend up to \$100.00 on the Milkweed and other plants for the project. Mr. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Haschets, will seek donations and raise money to purchase the topsoil, mulch, wood and plants. Mr. Weremeychik recommended that he not purchase pressure treated wood for the raised bed. The project will be completed the weekend of Warrington's Day of Community Service, May 18, 2019.

- **Buttercup Blvd. Basin-** Mr. Tim Lindquist, Eagle Scout Candidate, will work with his troop to plant the basin. Mr. Suffian told the group that the WEAC has submitted a grant application to the Bucks County Conservation District to fund the basin naturalization. Mr. Adams from the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS), who administers the grant money, asked if the WEAC would be willing to remove the concrete flow channel as a match item. Mr. Suffian responded that we would not be able to do that, due to the cost. Hopefully, we will still receive the funding. Ms. Ross asked Mr. Gaines if the Supervisors would be willing to use WEAC funds to purchase the materials in the event that the basin is not funded. Because the Board of Supervisors requested that the WEAC naturalize this basin as part of a five-year plan, Mr. Gaines thought that would not be a problem. Mr. Baratz and Ms. Ross will work together to complete a letter to be sent to the neighbors explaining the work to be done, and the reasons for naturalizing the basin.
- c) **Year of the Bird Proclamation-** On December 19, 2018, Ms. Brown, Ms. Schemm and Ms. Ross attended the "Year of the Bird Proclamation" event at the Bucks County Audubon Society. This proclamation helps to save/support the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which is currently under threat. The proclamation was adopted by the Board of Supervisors and presented to the Audubon Society at this event.
- d) **Tree City-** Mr. Suffian explained that the PHS sent out a survey back in December 2016, to determine which Townships were eligible to become a designated Tree City. At that time, Mr. Suffian asked Mr. Joe Knox to fill out some of the information. It appears that given the trees that the WEAC plants each year, and the tree maintenance that Public Works performs each year, may make us eligible. Mr. Suffian will follow up on this, and report further at another meeting.
- e) **Spotted Lantern Fly-** Ms. Laurelli presented some information on the Spotted Lantern Fly that she received from the Bucks County Conservation District. She explained that the Conservation District has implemented a program to teach municipalities how to control the spread and related destruction of this insect. Ms. Laurelli presented a hand out with information and control measures. She explained that the egg masses that have already been laid must be destroyed before they hatch. She brought in a live branch with two egg cases so that the WEAC could see what to look for. Mr. Gaines asked if someone would come to the next BOS meeting to discuss this and follow up with a power point presentation at a future BOS meeting. Ms. Laurelli and Ms. Ross will attend.
- f) **Pickertown and Folly Road Basin-** Ms. Ross and Mr. Suffian met the Township Engineer at the Pickertown and Folly Road Basin to discuss alternatives for the project. Mr. Zarko feels that there is enough elevation in the basin for it to drain after we remove

the concrete flow channel. Mr. Zarko will draw up some recommendations for a design and send them to the WEAC for consideration. Ms. Ross will follow up.

Mr. Suffian contacted the Wissahickon Valley Water Shed Association and they have driven past the basin and will provide Mr. Suffian with some information regarding the work they can perform by January 11, 2019.

- g) Morning Walk Basin-** Ms. Ross explained that Public Works has cleared the Cattails and stone berms out of the concrete flow channel in the Morning Walk basin. The water is now flowing through, and out of the basin. Mr. Knox from Public Works would like to clear out all of the Cattails out of the basin and apply herbicide. Ms. Ross asked them not to do this work at this time. She feels it would be better to leave the basin as is until the spring and see what happens. It may not be necessary to clear them out.
- h) Plant Sale-** The plant sale will be held on April 27, 2019, with a rain date of April 28, 2019 at the Warrington Township building.

Ms. Brown and Ms. Ross pre-ordered plants for the following areas from Octorara Native Plant Nursery-

- Butterfly Gardens
 - Rain Garden
 - Plant Sale
 - Shrubs and Trees for Lower Nike Trail
 - Morning Walk Basin
 - Hidden Court Basin
 - Buttercup Blvd. Basin
- i) WEAC Magnets-** Ms. Weremeychik contacted the vendor that made the original car magnets. The price has gone up, so Ms. Ross contacted Peregrine Associates and they can make refrigerator magnets for a much less expensive rate. Mr. Baratz made a motion that we spend up to \$300.00 on these magnets. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- j) Mill Creek Acquisition-** Ms. Ross and Ms. Schemm explained that there would be three levels of conservation and oversight on this property. Ms. Schemm is proposing an oversight committee for the parcel. Both Mr. Suffian and Ms. Ross explained that they want to be an integral part of this committee. Any other WEAC members are also encouraged to participate.
- k) Open Space Update-** There are no other updates regarding open space at this time.
- 5) Future Agenda Items-** Mr. Gaines suggested that the WEAC implement some type of Radon Program in the Township. That could include educating residents about radon testing and the importance of remediating radon if necessary in their homes or business.
- 6) Adjourn:** Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10PM. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted, Ivy Ross, Vice- Chairman, WEAC