



Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
February 6, 2019

- 1) Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Present were, Ivy Ross, Vice-Chairman; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Barbara Brown, Member; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Lynn Laurelli, Member; Carol Baker, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Ruth Schemm, Board of Supervisors; and Anne Craven Spillane, Member of the Public.

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

- 2) Public Comment** – There was no Public Comment.

- 3) Approval of Minutes** – On motion by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weremeychik, the minutes of the January 2, 2019 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

- 4) Business:**

a) Eagle Scout Projects-

- **Pollinator Garden-** Ms. Ross explained that 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 researched Milkweed and other plant plugs. Ms. Brown originally made a motion that the WEAC spend up to \$100.00, but would like to amend the motion to increase it to up to \$140.00. This amended amount will also pay for 100 seedlings from the PA Game Commission's Seedlings for School Program. Mr. Baratz made a motion to amend the original motion. Ms. Laurelli seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Haschets, will seek donations and raise money to purchase the topsoil, mulch, wood and some plants. Mr. Weremeychik recommended that he not purchase pressure treated wood for the raised bed. The project is scheduled to be complete the weekend of Warrington's Day of Community Service, May 18, 2019.

- b) **Buttercup Blvd. Basin-** Mr. Tim Lindquist, Eagle Scout Candidate, will work with his troop on Community Service Day to plant the basin. Ms. Ross will ask Mr. Lindquist to attend the March meeting to discuss specifics.
- c) **Homeowner Letter-** Ms. Ross and Mr. Baratz have amended the letter to the homeowners regarding the Buttercup Boulevard basin naturalization. Ms. Ross will send the letters along with the drawing of the planting locations, prepared by CKS, to the twelve houses adjacent to the basin.
- d) **Spotted Lantern Fly-** Ms. Laurelli presented a draft of the Spotted Lantern Fly power point presentation. She explained that the Conservation District has implemented a program to teach municipalities how to control the spread and related destruction of this insect. The final presentation will provide information and control measures. She explained that the egg masses that have already been laid must be destroyed before they hatch in the spring. Ms. Laurelli will be presenting the power point at the February 12, 2019 BOS meeting. Ms. Laurelli and Ms. Ross will attend. Ms. Weremeychik will put this presentation on the WEAC Facebook page and Ms. Ross will have it placed on the Township website.
- e) **Annual Report-** Mr. Suffian prepared the WEAC Annual Report. He circulated to all members for comment. He will be presenting the report at the March 12, 2019 BOS meeting.
- f) **Pickertown and Folly Road Basin-** Mr. Suffian received a proposal from the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association. They advised putting the meadow plantings on the banks of the basin, to do a no till seed mixture, they would charge \$858.09. Mr. Suffian explained that we had not considered this option.
- Ms. Ross suggested that she contact Mr. Larry Weaner, a meadows expert located in Ambler, to see if his company can give us some guidance.
- 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 has mowed the Cattails and has not applied any herbicide. Ms. Ross feels it would be better to leave the basin as is until the spring and see what happens. Given the change in drainage patterns, it may not be necessary to do any other work. Ms. Ross would like to plant around ten trees, preferably River Birch, in the basin where the Cattails had been growing to see if they can out compete them.
- h) **AmeriCorps Vista's-** Mr. Suffian has secured the AmeriCorps Vista's for an 8-hour workday in the spring. We will need to set up a schedule for WEAC members to work along with these volunteers, once a date has been confirmed.
- i) **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. **Community Service Day-** Community Service Day will be held on May 18, 2019 with a rain date of May 19, 2019. The art room at Twin Oaks will be available for us to use as our base. Some projects on that day will include naturalizing the Buttercup Boulevard detention basin, constructing and planting a pollinator garden at Lower Nike, replacing and adding some trees and shrubs at Lower Nike and the Morning Walk Basin, Rain Garden and Butterfly Garden, and edible forest maintenance, building screech owl, blue bird, bat and wood duck houses and maintaining existing interpretative signage, and flower planting, etc.
- j. **Open Space Update-** Ms. Ross and Ms. Schemm explained that there would be three levels of conservation and oversight on the Mill Creek Preservation Area (66 acres). Ms. Schemm is forming an oversight committee called the Friends of Mill Creek Preserve. There will be a monthly lecture series, which will take place prior to the Open Space and Land Preservation Committee meetings. Experts in different fields, relative to this large parcel, will give these lectures. Some examples include deer management, meadows, riparian buffers, etc. 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. **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.
- l. **Adjourn:** Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21PM. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Ivy Ross

Vice- Chairman, WEAC