



Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
January 4, 2017

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:38 P.M. Present were, Ivy Ross, Vice Chairman; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Barbara Brown, Member; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Kay Fairs, Bike and Hike Liaison; Kyle Farrell, Member; Brianna Diegel, Member; Fred Gaines, Planning Commission Liaison and Board of Supervisors; Shirley Yannich, Board of Supervisors and Lynn Laurelli, 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 Ms. Brown, the minutes of the December 7, 2016 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

4. **Business:**

- a. **Election of Officers-WEAC-**

- Chairman- Ms. Ross nominated Mr. Suffian as Chairman. Mr. Baratz seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Vice- Chairman- Mr. Weremeychik nominated Ms. Ross as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Fairs seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Secretary- Ms. Weremeychik nominated Mr. Baratz as Secretary. Mr. Suffian seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- b. **Election of Open Space Liaison-** Mr. Weremeychik nominated Ms. Ross to be the Open Space Committee Liaison. Mr. Baratz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- c. **Growing Greener Grant-** Mr. Suffian explained that he has completed the Growing Greener Grant application, which is due by January 13, 2017. This grant will be submitted for the naturalization of the basin on the corner of Folly and Pickertown Roads. Mr. Suffian explained that we are not in a Priority Area, so we will not get extra points, but we will submit the grant.

Mr. Suffian presented a power point presentation explaining the proposal. Public Works and volunteer hours will serve as a 15% match. The approximate cost of the grant will be \$20,000.

Ms. Livrone has put the grant on the January 10, 2017 Board of Supervisors agenda for approval. If approved, Ms. Ross will get the application signed, make the appropriate copies and submit it.

- d. **Open Space Inventory-** Mr. Suffian presented a power point showing 56 parcels, which are owned by the Township. These parcels are being unnecessarily mowed or are not being maintained at all. Some of these areas could be turned into meadows, trees can be planted or mowing could be discontinued. This could be a major cost savings to the Township.

Mr. Gaines asked if any of these parcels could be used for agricultural production.

Ms. Yannich thought this is a worthwhile program to implement. Ms. Brown suggested that some WEAC members go out to visit these parcels and rate them as to their importance, and determine the best course of action for each parcel.

The WEAC will continue investigating these identified parcels.

- e. **Hidden Court Discussion-** Ms. Ross explained that there is a possibility that there has been vandalism in the basin. The WEAC had a made a sign to post at the basin, but has yet to install it. Ms. Yannich will inquire as to weather there is a legal reason the sign cannot be installed.
- f. **Community Service Volunteer-** Ms. Ross told the group that there is a young man in need of some community service hours. Because of the lack of outdoor WEAC work at this time, Ms. Ross would like him to work with the Bike and Hike Committee to help clean up the proposed natural trail.
- g. **Native Plants For Home Owners-** Ms. Brown explained that the National Women's Farm and Garden Association for Native Plants contacted her about using the gardens at her home as part of a tour showing people how they can plant native plants and gardens in their yards. She had to apply and was accepted to be part of this event, which will take place on June 17, 2017.
- h. **Lions Club Playground-** Ms. Ross explained that the Lions Club made a presentation on Tuesday December 13, 2016, to the Board of Supervisors. The Lions Club announced a large monetary donation to the Township to support a playground at the site of the closed down Twin Oaks Day Camp.

Ms. Yannich explained that the supervisors are very excited about this project; however, there are members of the adjacent neighborhood who are opposed. Their opposition is focused on the amount of traffic that will be coming into the new playground and people using the unpaved road to utilize it. Currently residents are complaining about the dust in their homes, created by the vehicles. This road precedes the adjacent development by many decades.

- i. Butterfly Garden-** Ms. Ross, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Laurelli will be meeting on Friday January 13, 2017 at Village Bagel to discuss plans for the Butterfly Garden. Any other WEAC are invited to join in on the planning meeting.

- j. Open Space Update-** Ms. Ross explained that Warrington Township has been awarded grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources totaling approximately \$1,100,000 for the 68 acres of open space for the Mill Creek/ Eureka site. This parcel was identified by the WEAC for purchase as it ranked second on our priority parcel list. The second appraisal value, a yellow book appraisal, came in higher than the original appraisal. Negotiations with the landowner are continuing.

- k. Future Agenda Items-** Mr. Suffian would like to invite Ms. Ann Toole, of Toole Recreation Planning, to our next meeting to discuss plans for the proposed Mill Creek trail.

- 5. Adjourn:** Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Ivy Ross, Vice- Chairman, WEAC