

WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES TO MAY 7, 2008 MEETING

The meeting started at 7:32 PM followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those in attendance were the following EAC members: Todd Baratz, Fred Suffian, Fraser Wall, Dave Weaver, Nick and Adele Weremeychik. Also in attendance was Barbara Livrone, Recording Secretary for the WTEAC.

Public Comment

Mr. Weaver introduced John Voit who works for Lentzscaping located in Warrington. Lentzscaping is affiliated with Aqua Scapes of the Delaware Valley. Aqua Scapes' technology is primarily with retention basins and Mr. Voit would like to work with the grant the township just received.

Mr. Suffian explained the recent Growing Greener grant money the township received is strictly for retrofitting detention basins.

Mr. Wall stated detention basins in the larger developments are assumed by the township, however if a detention basin is located on someone's property, it would be the homeowners responsibility.

Mr. Wall stated the township has one large retention basin which is near the Barclay Elementary School and is a collector of three (3) small streams. The retention basin is approximately thirty five (35) years old and is a maintenance challenge for the township.

Mr. Wall asked if the water and sewer department has ever tested the water at this retention basin. Mrs. Livrone will follow up on this request.

Mr. Suffian is going to explore the availability of grant money for retention basins.

Mr. Weremeychik asked if the pond at Twin Oaks would be eligible. Mr. Suffian said it is not a storm water benefit.

Approval of the April 2, 2008 Minutes

Minutes from the April 2, 2008 were approved by Mr. Wall and seconded by Mr. Weaver. All were in favor.

Earth Day 2008

Mr. Suffian stated Earth Day was well attended and felt it was a successful township event. Pictures of the event were emailed to the members and to the volunteers.

Central Bucks South Environmental Club assembled rain barrels under the leadership of their teacher, Ian Smith.

The Boy Scout Troop 137 was originally assigned to locate detention basins but did not have the turnout of volunteers that they expected. However, they will try to pursue this project in the summer or fall. They helped with the storm drain labeling project at Earth Day.

There were ninety two (92) volunteers at the townships Earth Day event. Over 450 storm drains were labels were used.

Mrs. Weremeychik requested the tip card which is handed out to the residents should provide an explanation that the township is actually labeling the storm drains.

A thank you was sent by email to all the scout leaders and individuals who participated at Earth Day.

Mr. Suffian suggested an article on Earth Day and storm drain labeling appear in the next townships newsletter and on the website when the website becomes active.

Mr. Weremeychik suggested a poster be presented to the contributors listing Earth Day activities and pictures from the event as a thank you. Mrs. Weremeychik suggested for next year designing a poster advertising the event and placing the poster at the individual businesses. The Weremeychik's will prepare a mock up of the event and submit their ideas to the council for posters to represent each contributor.

The council agreed to host a recognition ceremony in October to combine both Earth Day and Warrington Day. The bracelets that were purchased for Earth Day will be given out to everyone who attends the recognition ceremony.

Mr. Suffian suggested combining Park and Recreation with the EAC at next years Earth Day Event.

Mr. Suffian emphasized Earth Day is a community service day and not vendor oriented as some townships promote. Mr. Suffian felt the educational portion at Earth Day was not successful mainly because the troops were working and had to leave due to afternoon commitments, thus not being able to view the educational displays.

Mr. Suffian suggested inviting the township's Park and Recreation council to host the educational theme for Earth Day in hopes to draw in the public. Mrs. Weremeychik suggested opening up the buildings at Twin Oaks to be used for educational purposes, thus portraying a village image.

Mr. Weaver will ask the Park and Recreation council to manage the educational and fun activities for Earth Day. Mr. Suffian said the EAC will manage the community service projects.

Two disposable cameras that were used by the boy scouts were developed.

Mrs. Weremeychik reported the Central Bucks East and West German Honor Society pulled out the following items from the pond at Twin Oaks:

- Hot water heaters, tires, a canoe, cement fence posts, 4 x 4's, wooden posts and other debris.

Rain Barrels

Mr. Suffian reported twenty (20) rain barrels were assembled at Earth Day. Mr. Suffian would like to incorporate the rain barrels into the WREN grant as part of the healthy yards concept.

Mr. Suffian also suggested purchasing yard sticks that provides information to improve a homeowner's yard.

Mr. Suffian suggested focusing the rain barrels on the neighborhoods that do not have storm water controls. A letter will be mailed to those neighborhoods to provide a healthy yard evaluation. In return the homeowner will have to make a commitment to follow through with the evaluation. The EAC will discuss further what the commitment should be. Other than the volunteer time through the partnership, the EAC does not have any out of pocket expense because the grant is providing the funding.

Mr. Suffian suggested hosting a Healthy Yards/Rain Barrel workshop. The homeowner will have to sign up for the workshop. The workshop will teach the homeowner about healthy yards and show them how to assemble their own rain barrel. It was decided by the council to provide one (1) barrel per household.

A bulk mailing of five hundred pieces will be sent along with a business reply card. If the card is returned, the township is charged when the card is mailed back. Mr. Wall made a motion to allocate Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the Healthy Yard/Rain Barrel bulk mailing. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baratz. All were in favor.

The grant will fund twenty five (25) healthy yard evaluations and twenty five (25) rain barrels. If needed, additional funding will come from the money left over from Earth Day.

Adopt-A-Road Program Update

Mr. Suffian reported that three (3) organizations have adopted township roads. The organizations are: Karaoke and Beyond, Warrington Rotary Club and Team Ox Cycling Club. Mr. Suffian handed out a map indicating state and township adopted roads. Some

state roads have not been adopted. Mr. Suffian asked Mrs. Livrone to contact the state to verify the information.

Clean Energy Outreach Plan Update

The Clean Energy program has been extended to October 1, 2008. Molly Tsongas has left SmartPower, Inc. and our new contact is located in Washington, DC. As of January 2008, the township had sixty eight (68) sign-ups. A current sign up list will be forthcoming. Mr. Suffian would like to continue the raffle. Mr. Suffian requested purchasing the gift cards and mailed to the people who signed up for Clean Energy at the Bucks Beautiful Garden Fair. Mr. Suffian suggested placing Clean Energy flyers on cars at high concentrated township areas, i.e., Barness field and IPW. Another suggestion was handing out the flyers at swim meets. He asked the other council members to volunteer. Mr. Wall and Mrs. Weremeychik responded and will volunteer.

Residents can sign up for clean energy either by calling the 800 number listed on the flyer or by going to the PECO Wind.com website and signing up on-line. If the resident wants a gift, they have to sign up by mailing the form back to the township. The business reply stamp will be on the back of the flyer.

Mrs. Weremeychik suggested adding a line to the flyer stating the township will receive a free solar panel.

Another Clean Energy article will be written for the township's next newsletter.

Little Neshaminy Implementation Efforts Update

Mr. Suffian reported there are no new updates on the Little Neshaminy Growing Greener Grant. The grant is to provide retrofitting for two detention basins. The second basin has not been determined.

Stream Signs

A letter from the Southeast Regional Council was received to provide stream signs to municipalities. This collected information could be useful to obtain a grant. Mr. Suffian handed out a "Stream Road Intersection" map of Warrington Township showing the streams already named and the location of streams not named. Mr. Wall requested "Palomino Run" to be added to the map.

The EAC could name the streams or this could be a contest at the schools and have the children participate in naming the township streams.

Associate Members

Some residents expressed an interest in attending the EAC meetings. Mr. Suffian read the by laws for the council and they only define who the council is. Mr. Wall stated an

“associate member” is a new category not recognized by the township’s charter. Mr. Wall suggested defining associate member and petition to the supervisors to be accepted.

Other Business

Trees

Mr. Suffian noted that we are looking for volunteers or groups to identify tree species and inventory trees within the township.

Mr. Wall inquired if the EAC wants to find out the number of trees within the township or to expand and/or replenish street trees.

Mr. Suffian responded by saying both. The township purchased a computer program called “City Greene” which can record an inventory of all types of trees. The program tells you the canopy cover and it provides formulas to calculate air pollutant production, water absorption, shading for energy, etc. The program will also be instrumental to apply for grants.

WREN Grant

The WREN Grant is more of an educational grant and the growing greener is construction based. The WREN grant was awarded to the township in the amount of \$4,997.00. The maximum funding the township was allowed to apply for was \$5,000.00.

The concept of the grant is to promote healthy yards. The council is going to focus on the Little Neshaminy and the neighborhoods that do not have storm water controls. Twenty five (25) healthy yard evaluations were obtained and partnering letters from organizations were also obtained. The only item funded by the WREN grant is the rain barrels.

There are three (3) components to the WREN grant:

- A healthy yard evaluation which two practices need to be implemented: one can be a rain barrel or another practice could be soil testing, nutrient management, etc.
- The other piece of the grant is to naturalize the detention basin at Bucks Mont Fellowship Church on Street Road. The church will be providing the labor and the plant materials will be funded by the grant. A partnership between the church and township has already been executed.
- Lastly, Jamison Elementary School has agreed to do an outreach piece of the grant either by a poster contest or by a brochure. Funding by the grant will be used to purchase paper supplies for the school to use for the outreach portion of the grant. Funding was already provided to the school to build a rain garden and the construction should be completed.

Another component is to have a follow up to the Little Neshaminy Rivers conservation Plan meeting which will be hosted by the Bucks Mont Fellowship Church.

A required workshop on June 17 and 18, 2008 is mandatory for the WREN grant project. Paul Gdanski will be attending. Two representatives from the township are paid for by the organization.

Meetings

Doylestown Township EAC is sponsoring a meeting to discuss First Suburbs Project and BC Stewardship Council on May 13, 2008 to be held at the Doylestown Township Building.

Neshaminy Creek Watershed Alliance & Heritage Conservancy Workshop – May 29, 2008 @ 6:00 – 9:00 PM located at Aldie Mansion, Doylestown, PA. Nick and Adele Weremeychik will be attending.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Wall and seconded by Mr. Weaver to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 9:48 PM.