



**Warrington Township  
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting  
March 6, 2013**

- 1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM. Present were: Ivy Ross, Vice-Chairman; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Fred Gaines, Planning Commission Liaison; Josh Jordan, Member; Shirley Yannich, Warrington Township Supervisor; Eric Thomson and Barbara Brown, members of the public; Jayne Rogus and Dan Rogus, Eagle Scout Candidate; and Raymond R. Hendrick, Chairman of the Doylestown Township EAC.

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

- 2. Public Comment:** There was no Public Comment.

- 3. Approval of Minutes for February 6, 2013:**

Mr. Suffian said that under section 4. C. it should read "up to \$5 per sign up".

Mr. Suffian also pointed out that under j. it should read Growing Greener instead of WREN Grant.

On motion by Ms. Weremeychik and seconded by Mr. Weremeychik, the Minutes of the February 6, 2013 meeting, as amended, were approved.

- 4. Business:**

- a. Mr. Ray Hendrick from Doylestown EAC- Bird and Bat Houses:** Mr. Hendrick is the Chairman of the Doylestown Township EAC. He is also the Township Ornithologist. He has placed over 200 Blue Bird houses throughout Doylestown Township as well as other locations within Bucks County.

Mr. Hendrick discussed the building and upkeep of these bird houses. He also brought one of the constructed bird houses to show the group how to clean them. He discussed the need to incorporate predator guards on the poles and the need to remove old nests and clean out any wasp nests in the winter. The best areas to place these houses are in areas with short grasses, like detention basins. They should be constructed out off a natural wood.

Mr. Hendrick told the group that he is available for any questions and is willing to consult on the construction of the houses.

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- b. **Wind Energy Campaign:** Mr. Jonathan Edwards from Smart Power has drafted a resolution to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. This draft resolution has been sent to Mr. Tipperman for comment and approval. As of now, this resolution is on the Board of Supervisors March 12, 2013 agenda.

Smart Power is asking the WEAC to support their new “Pennsylvania Wind Power Campaign”. PECO is no longer offering wind power to local residents, and many are looking for a new alternative. This is a 100% Pennsylvania product and is price competitive with other energy products. One thing they offer that other companies do not is a locked in price for one year. This campaign is looking for partnerships with municipalities. They are offering the WEAC a price of up to \$5 for each sign up we receive. We can spend this money in any way the WEAC sees fit, including, but not limited to the purchase of a wind turbine. This campaign will go through the end of November 2013. They will provide the WEAC with handouts to promote sign up’s.

- c. **William Penn Tree- Gold Award Project:** Ms. Ross has been working with Miss Kaitey Hallowell, a gold award candidate, on the William Penn Tree project located at the 10 Folly Road School House. This project has included collaboration between the Historic Commission and the WEAC. Ms. Ross explained that Miss Hallowell is completing a pamphlet to give to the Historical Commission and is creating an interpretive sign which she will place in front of the tree. She will be finishing up her project by cleaning up the area around the tree and mulching the area as well.

- d. **Green Infrastructure Partnership with Villanova:** Mr. Suffian explained that the Villanova students are working on the Valuation of Green Infrastructure as part of the PECO Grant. They have submitted a progress report for February in which they outlined their progress. Mr. Suffian passed around that report and e-mailed it to the WEAC members for review.

Mr. Suffian asked that we make a motion to pay the students for their current hours. Mr. Baratz made that motion. Mr. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- e. **Open Space and Trails Map:** Mr. Suffian told the group that the Township, along with Carroll Engineering is working on a current trails map.
- f. **Potential Growing Greener Project Sites:** The committee agreed that we would not apply for the current round of Growing Greener Grants given the submission of the WREN Grant. Mr. Suffian will ask the Township for support on the next round of these grants.
- g. **WREN Grant Proposal:** Mr. Suffian told the committee that he has been working on a WREN Grant for submission in March. He explained that it will be a good back up plan in case we are not awarded the PECO Grant. If we are awarded the PECO grant, this will be additional funding to support ongoing WEAC activities. The grant focuses on non-point source runoff. The submission will include funds to identify trail signage, wetlands and habitat. It will also be used for but not limited to rain barrels, bird and bat houses.

Mr. Weremeychik made a motion that the WEAC apply for this WREN Grant. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

#### h. **Earth Day**

- **Bird and Bat Houses-** Mr. Weremeychik has been researching available kits and prices for bird and bat houses to be assembled on Earth Day. As of now, it appears that bat house kits range in price between \$80 and \$100. It appears it would be more cost effective to build these houses on our own. Mr. Weremeychik will build an example. He will continue his research and present it at the April meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Weremeychik that we spend up to \$1,000 on material to build both the blue bird and bat houses at Earth Day. This will also include any other material or items needed for the event. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- **Rain Barrels-** It appears that we have enough materials on hand to build a sufficient number of rain barrels on Earth Day.
- **Flower Beds-** Ms. Weremeychik has offered to work with the volunteers to plant the flower beds.
- **Twin Oaks Bunker Painting-** Mr. Luber and Mr. Banargo have asked the WEAC to include painting some of the Camp bunkers

during Earth Day. They will provide a member of Public Works and all of the equipment necessary. Ms. Ross will try to find a Boy Scout Troop for this activity.

- **Basin Planting- Mr. Dan Rogus:** Mr. Rogus presented his preliminary planting plan. He explained to the group that the deadline for completion of his work, under the grant agreement, is May 28, 2013. Mr. Suffian suggested that Mr. Rogus complete the stone work and flag the area for tree and shrub planting on the weekend of May 4, 2013. All of the planting would then be completed on the Earth Day of Community Service, May 11, 2013.

Ms. Ross will work with Mr. Rogus to complete his planting plan for the Morning Walk detention basin. They will then submit this list to Ms. Megan Rogalus of the Bucks County Conservation District for approval. Once she has approved the list, Mr. Rogus will place the order for the plant material to Lewis Nurseries. Mr. Suffian will reserve the conservation trailer.

- **Other Projects-** Mr. Weremeychik will continue to research a way to build compost bins. If there is a viable alternative to the current design, the WEAC will consider building a few bins at Earth Day.
- **Donation Letters-** Ms. Ross will be sending out over 200 letters asking for donations. She will also hand deliver about 30 of the letters in order to speak to managers and verbally request donations.
- **Volunteers-** Ms. Ross has sent out e-mails requesting volunteers for Earth Day.

**5. Future Agenda Items:** There were no future agenda items discussed.

**6. Adjourn:** Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ivy Ross  
Vice-Chairman, EAC