



Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
August 7, 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; Todd Baratz, Secretary Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Barbara Brown, Member; Vinobha Pannerselvam, Bike and Hike Liaison; Fred Gaines, Board of Supervisors; Ruth Schemm, Board of Supervisors; Carol Baker, Board of Supervisors; Dot D'Angelo, Kathy Newcomb, Zijun Xu, and Craig Wilkerson, Members of the Public.

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

- 2) Public Comment** – Mr. Craig Wilkerson explained that he lives near the Little Neshaminy Creek, in the area behind the New Auto Zone. In years past, he would fish and see a lot of wildlife along the stream. There is very little wildlife in the area anymore. He is concerned that the Victory Gardens operation is contaminating the stream due to its proximity. They store dyed mulch extremely close to the stream, possibly in the floodplain, and during storm events, it is possible that those dyes are running off into the waterway. The area of concern is Township Open Space. Mr. Wilkerson would also like to clean up the trash that has been accumulating in the area. Ms. Ross offered him gloves, trash bags and orange vests for any volunteers he may have to do a clean-up of the area. The Township will also collect the trash bags following the clean-up.
- 3) Approval of Minutes** – On motion by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weremeychik, the minutes of the May 1, 2019 meeting were approved. All were in favor.

4) Business:

a. Eagle Scout Projects-

- **Wood Duck Houses-** Ms. Ross told the group that Aaryan Goel, an Eagle Scout candidate, is constructing 10 wood duck houses for the WEAC.
- **Screech Owl Houses-** Mr. Sam Dessino, an Eagle Scout Candidate, is constructing 15 screech owl houses for the WEAC.

- b. Pickertown and Folly Road Basin-** Ms. Ross shared the plan that CKS Engineers developed for the removal of the existing concrete flow channel. The engineer from

CKS reached out to our liaison from Growing Greener for approval of the design. The design was approved. Mr. Joe Knox, from Public Works will have his crew remove the channel in late September. Mr. Baratz will talk to the neighbors, adjacent to the basin concerning buffer plantings on their yard.

- c. **Osprey Nest-** Ms. Ross reported that a presentation was made at the July 23, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting thanking the Pennsylvania Game Commission, PECO Exelon Corporation, and Mark Ruckno for their collaborative work and donation of the Osprey Nest at the Bradford Reservoir.
- d. **EAC to Plant Shrubs Instead of Flowers (L.N.)** - Ms. Brown shared her idea of planting shrubs at the signs for Lower Nike, as opposed to flowers. Ms. Weremeychik agreed, and said that each year we plant annuals during the WEAC Community Service Day, and the beds are not being weeded. Planting of evergreen type shrubs would make the entrance to the park look more formal and cut down on the need for maintenance.
- e. **Warrington Day-**Warrington Day is September 28, 2019. Ms. Ross has secured the WEAC booth. She has asked for extra tables and chairs, and the booth will be on the end, so that we have more space. Ms. Laurelli has offered to work with the Enviroscape.

The following is a schedule of volunteers:

- Mr. and Ms. Weremeychik- set up
 - Mr. Baratz-10:00 AM-3:00 PM
 - Ms. Laurelli- All day
 - Ms. Ross- All day, shared with Open Space and Land Preservation Committee
 - Ms. Brown-All day
 - Mr. Suffian- Afternoon
 - Mr. Pannerselvam- All day, shared with Bike and Hike Committee
- f. **Single Use Plastic Bags- Letters to Businesses-** The group discussed how we could approach local business owners to consider a ban on single use plastic bags. Mr. Gaines explained that we are not able to pass any ordinances at this time because this issue is being addressed at the state level. However, he recommended that we approach local businesses and ask them to be “good neighbors”. Mr. Pannerselvam and Mr. Xu would like to form a subcommittee and reach out to other townships to discuss how they are working toward a ban on the single use plastic bags. Mr. Pannerselvam made a motion to form a subcommittee. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Ms. Ross and Mr. Xu meet with Peregrine Associates to see what kind of reusable bags we could order as a hand out for Warrington Day. They found a large reusable bag that could have our logo on it and fold up small enough to fit in a pocket or a

pocketbook. Everyone agreed on a bag. Mr. Baratz made a motion that we spend up to \$400.00 on 100 bags. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- g. Reginal EAC Summit-** Mr. Pannerselvam and Ms. Brown attended the Regional EAC Summit on June 12, 2019. The summit focused on “Ready for 100”. Surrounding townships discussed a ban on plastics and renewable energy. Mr. Pannerselvam said that a member from the Montgomery Township EAC is willing to come and present some ideas to our committee. He will arrange for this speaker to come speak at either our October or November WEAC meeting.
 - h. Cardamone Letter-** Mr. Suffian distributed a draft letter regarding the proposed Cardamone development to the members of the WEAC via email. Everyone had the opportunity to comment. Mr. Suffian explained that he would like to send the letter to the Planning Commission, as well as the Board of Supervisors. This letter describes that the committee does not agree with the Zoning and Hearing Boards decision to approve a variance to Cardamone. It also discusses how and why the committee does not agree with the hardship granted and asks the decision be reversed. Mr. Baratz made a motion that the letter be forwarded, describing the committees concerns. Mr. Pannerelvam seconded the motion. Ms. Ross recused herself from the vote. All who voted were in favor.
 - i. Open Space Update-**The Open Space ad Land Preservation Committee have formed 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. The goal of this lecture series is to solicit public input and incorporate that information into our resource plan.
- 5. Future Agenda Items-** There is no future agenda items.
- 6. Adjourn-** Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Ivy Ross-

Vice- Chairman, WEAC