



Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the Meeting
September 4, 2019

- 1) Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. Present were, Ivy Ross, Vice-Chairman; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Barbara Brown, Member; Fred Gaines, Board of Supervisors; Ruth Schemm, Board of Supervisors; Carol Baker, Board of Supervisors; Dot D'Angelo, Craig Wilkerson and Amy Crasto, Members of the Public.

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

- 2) Public Comment** – Ms. Amy Crasto introduced herself and said that she would like to learn more about what the WEAC does and would like to possibly volunteer with the group. She lives near the Buttercup basin that the WEAC naturalized during last year's Warrington Day of Community Service.
- 3) Approval of Minutes** – On motion by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Ms. Laurelli, the minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting were approved. All were in favor.
- 4) Business:**

- a. Victory Gardens**— 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. During storm events, it is possible that those dyes are running off into the waterway.

Ms. Ross discussed this situation with Mr. Rieder and he said that the delineation of the floodplain changed in 2015 and Victory Gardens is grandfathered into the old floodplain boundaries, therefore, Victory Gardens is not considered to be in the floodplain. If current floodplain lines were used, several of their mulching bins would be within the boundaries.

Mr. Suffian recommended that Mr. Wilkerson call the DEP in Norristown and ask if Victory Gardens are required to have an industrial discharge permit. If so, do they have one in order to be compliant with MS4 regulations?

Ms. Baker recommended that Mr. Wilkerson contact the Delaware River Keepers for advice.

- b. Pickertown and Folly Road Basin-** Mr. Suffian explained to the public the reasoning behind naturalizing detention basins. He discussed the need to remove concrete flow channels so that water can infiltrate into the ground and not be directly discharged into the streams. Because of newer Federal protection regarding water quality, municipalities need to implement an MS4 program. Under this regulation, municipalities are required to retrofit older stormwater basins by either removing the channels, diverting water away from the channels and also planting trees and shrubs for uptake of floodwaters. This is the best way to treat the water before entering streams, thereby improving water quality.

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. The neighbors have provided a list of trees and shrubs that they would like as buffer plantings, but we are unsure if this is what all of the neighbors are asking for.

- c. 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
- Ms. D'Angelo, Mr. Wilkerson and Ms. Crasto have all offered to help out

- d. 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”.

Ms. Ross brought one of the reusable totes ordered from Peregrine Associates. The group was very pleased with how they turned out. Ms. Brown made a motion that we sell the bags for \$1.00 each at Warrington Day. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. Everyone was in favor.

- e. **PHS Bare Root Trees-** Mr. Suffian explained that the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society (PHS) is offering trees at a significantly reduced price. The first 12 trees would be \$50.00 each and \$90.00 per tree after that, with a maximum of 19 trees. The order would need to be placed by September 19th and picked up at the Navy Yard on November 14th or 15th.

Ms. Weremeychik suggested that if we order trees, we check as to whether the Spotted Lanternfly likes those species.

Mr. Suffian would like the trees to be planted along the entrance road to Lower Nike in between the Bradford Pears. Ms. Ross would like to speak with Mr. Luber about this, prior to ordering the trees to see if this is something he would like to do there. Also, Public Works is very backed up this year with Warrington Day, the construction of Lions Pride Park, and the need to remove the concrete flow channel at the Pickertown and Folly Road basin.

Mr. Weremeychik made a motion to spend up to \$1,200.00 on the PHS trees if they are able to be picked up and planted by Public Works. Mr. Baratz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- f. **Fall Maintenance of Basins-** Ms. Ross explained that she and Ms. Brown visited all of the naturalized basins to see what kind of fall maintenance will be necessary. Ms. Brown would like to bring Dan, the gentleman who pruned the basin trees last year, back to work in several of the basins to prune. At the same time, if a couple of us went with him, we could remove tree tubes and cages that are not needed anymore. Some weeding can also be done. Dan charges \$300.00 dollars for 8 hours of work. Ms. Brown feels that he could do all of the necessary work in two days. Ms. Brown made a motion to hire Dan for two eight hour days for \$600.00. Mr. Baratz seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- f. **Monarch Waystation- 4 H Project-** Ms. Ross has meet with high school student, Reilly Monson, to discuss a possible 4H project she will be completing in the next year. Ms. Ross told her that the WEAC would be happy to work with her and support and guide her efforts. Ms. Ross suggested she construct a Monarch Waystation and recommended doing so at a local school. Miss Monson will reach out to different schools to see if there is interest.
- g. **Gold Award Candidate for Bird Blind-** Miss Andrews, a Gold Award candidate, has shown interest in building a bird blind in Warrington Township for the last several years. She is now prepared to begin her Gold Award project and has contacted Ms. Ross to discuss the specifics.
- h. **Open Space Update-**The Open Space and 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 are no future agenda items.
- 6. Adjourn-** Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 PM. Ms. Weremeychik seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectively submitted,

Ivy Ross-

Vice- Chairman, WEAC