



**Warrington Township  
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting  
March 3, 2021**

- 1. Call To Order, Pledge Of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 19:34. Present were: Fred Gaines, Supervisor; Ruth Schemm, Supervisor; Fred Suffian, Chairman; Ivy Ross, Vice Chairman; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Barbara Brown, Member; Vinobha Pannerselvam, Member; Marilyn Laurelli, Member; Joanne Mancini, Member; Guy Powell, Public; Amy Crasto, Public; Steve Palmieri, Public

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

- 2. Public Comment:** Introduction of Nishi Panenerselvam and Ethan Baratz.
- 3. Business:**

- a. Energy Savings and Clean Energy Practice Inv.**

Mr. Suffian presented an inventory of Warrington Township energy saving and clean energy practices that he compiled from projects the EAC and Township has completed since 2004

Following is a summary:

- Over 2200 trees and shrubs planted that will sequester over 2.2 million pounds of Co2 with a value of over \$39,000 and will intercept over 1.1 million gallons of rainfall with an avoided stormwater cost of approximately \$82,000 over 25 years.
- Solar panels on the Police Station will reduce our Co2 emissions by 1 million pounds over 25 years.
- Energy saving street lighting will reduce our Co2 emissions by 10.6 million pounds over 25 years.

- Energy saving office lighting will reduce our Co2 emissions by 1.2 million pounds over 25 years.

**Ongoing**, since 2017 The WEAC has been working with the Park and Recreation Commission and Public Works Department to reduce mowing in parks and stormwater basins.

**Future:**

- Planning to install public vehicle charging stations at the township building, the police station and IPW Park.
- Exploring opportunities to install a solar farm.
- Planning to purchase one hybrid vehicle this year and one either hybrid or electric vehicle in 2022. The Police Department may also purchase one or two electric vehicles in 2022 or 2023 if there are adequate facilities available to charge them.
- Modelling for trees from iTree model set supported by USDA Forest Service.
- In next several months line up presentation for ready for 100 and present to the Board Of Supervisors (BOS) in hopes that BOS will approve a resolution to formally start the process of creating a transition plan to move to 100% clean energy
- Bucks County just passed a resolution to do it at the county level and a handful of townships passed similar resolutions. Bucks County just passed a model alternative energy ordinance. Bucks County RF100 group willing to work with us to present to BOS if we need their assistance.
- Mr. Suffian - new zoning ordinance will have an alt energy section based on information from the County. Ready for 100 program is 6 step program and 1st step is to research of consumption of energy by township. They have organized program for identifying sources. BOS on Tuesday hearing request for approval for purchase of 2 hybrid energy police cars (gas/electric)

• **Nishi Panenerselvam - Presentation on making Warrington safe for cavity nesters - Blue Birds**

- i. PowerPoint - destroying habitat from building, goals for putting bird houses at multiple locations (29 - 30) throughout the parks in Warrington
- ii. The cost with shipping of each kit is \$13 per box, unknown cost for PA1 call, total cost ~\$400 + PA1 call
- iii. Install 30 boxes between now and summer. Start building in March, start installs in March/April and complete in June.
- iv. Ms. Ross will send an e-mail to the group about a program to show how to create kits and give you kits for free. Ivy said kits cost about \$14-\$15 a piece
- v. Ms. Brown reported that if you make your own Blue bird house, it costs about \$1 per linear foot for lumber and it takes about 8 linear feet to build a bird house (so about \$8- \$9 per bird house)

- vi. Mr. Gaines - suggested make a resolution to approve money to make the bird houses
- vii. Ms. Brown reported that conduit poles at Home Depot are \$6 a piece for a 10 foot length (need 7.5 feet)
- viii. Mr. Suffian suggested we keep count of how many bird houses we sell each year
- ix. Motion to approve the bird house plan as proposed not to exceed \$600 from Ms. Brown (30 blue bird houses and installation) Ms. Ross seconded the motion
- x. Ms. Ross asked that Mr. Pannerselvam send the presentation to the EAC

**a. Holiday Lights and Mobile Device Recycling Recap**

- i. Mr. Xu - ended up with slightly over 200 lbs. of light strings and 60 lbs. computer cables, which are worth more because they have a higher grade of copper. He estimated about 1/4 ton of items collected. Earned an estimated \$350-\$400 in proceeds.
- ii. If anyone is interested in running something similar next year to let him know and he will be happy to assist.
- iii. Ms. Ross reported that proceeds were donated to Warrington Cares and it was the largest money maker for Warrington Cares this year.
- iv. Mr. Weremeychik reported that the compact fluorescent bulbs must be disposed of properly and also stated that smoke detectors contain radioactive material and has to be disposed of properly.

**b. Hiking Map on Trails**

- i. Ms. Crasto - in Colorado they have maps that you can cross off each trail as you do them along with the date and maybe Warrington should do something similar and partner with a local business.
- ii. Ms. Ross had an e-mail exchange with Sethu (Chairman of Bike and Hike) and she told him about this idea and partnering with Bike and Hike and suggested that Ms. Crasto join a Zoom call she is having with Sethu to discuss the idea and this could be a good opportunity to partner with Bike and Hike. Ms. Ross discussed the creation of a Greenway.
- iii. Ms. Crasto - stated that we could put items of note in the guide (like find the Blue Bird house).
- iv. Mr. Suffian stated that we put together something like this when we did the trail signs.
- v. Ms. Ross stated that for \$20 each, we could get beacons and add them to the Lions Pride Park phone app.

**c. Scout Project at Bradford Dam**

- i. Mr. Pannerselvam - Girl Scout submitted paperwork to Ms. Ross on scout project and is approved from the scout board. Need to mark places where she is putting in Blue Bird boxes.
- ii. Ms. Ross spoke to Joe Knox telling him that we would be asking for PA1 calls
- iii. Mr. Suffian reported that he uses Strava to record walks and runs and we could use that to help get people out on our trails.

**d. Recognition for Jane Macaulay - Bird Blind**

- i. Ms. Ross reported that Ms. Macaulay did receive her Gold Award and that the EAC would like her to be honored at a BOS meeting. Ms. Macaulay said she would love that.
- ii. Ms. Schemm asked to report on when she would be ready for that and they will include her on a Zoom call.
- iii. Ms. Schemm report that Jenn Fielding will replace Barbara Livrone.

**e. Schedule for Mowing**

- i. Ms. Ross stated that she has been working on a schedule for mowing for spring and summer. She spoke with Joe Knox and this is last year on existing mowing contract.
- ii. Ms. Ross stated that Ms. Brown and Steve Palmieri will pick 3 or 4 additional basins to not mow and next year we will present the new mowers with updated no-mow areas
- iii. Ms. Brown said that she and Steve Palmieri plan to buy 100 plugs for the basin to be planted at Coachlight Circle, to see how they take (as a test). This basin was never mowed in the past for unknown reasons. It was cut for first time in 2020.
- iv. Mr. Suffian asked if Ms. Brown and Mr. Palmieri were proposing no mow and Ms. Brown stated that it would be a once a year mow at the end of the season.
- v. Ms. Crasto asked if we should put up "no mow" signs. Mr. Palmieri responded that he and Ms. Ross and Ms. Brown are getting together to determine which basins will get no mow signs.
- vi. Ms. Brown also stated that plugs would be put in sections throughout the basin (10 per section).
- vii. Mr. Suffian said he does not believe we have any no mow signs. He said we could buy them from the company we buy signs for--we may need them to designate which areas of a basin are not to be mowed while other areas do get mowed. To keep the mowers aware of areas they should not mow.
- viii. Ms. Brown stated that Lower Nike is an issue and asked Ms. Schemm to join her when talking to Joe Knox to mow once in the spring. This mow needs to be controlled because our shrubs are sending off chutes and we do not want those shrubs to get mowed. Someone needs to be there to show them what to do for that one time mow.
- ix. Ms. Ross stated that the township likes to mow there for Warrington Day in September and Ms. Brown said she would like to be there for that mow too. Ms. Schemm said she could accompany Ms. Brown when meeting with Joe Knox. Ms. Brown said she could meet Ms. Schemm in the area and show her what she's talking about.
- x. Ms. Brown said she was thinking of planting plugs over by the way station. Mr. Suffian suggested that we don't do that this year as there is already a lot of maintenance and we are not having a formal Day of Community Service, due to covid.
- xi. Ms. Brown asked about spending the \$100 for the plugs for the basin behind Coachlight Basin.

- xii. Ms. Brown made a motion that we spend \$100 for the plugs for a basin as a test project to grow pollinator plants. Mr. Pannerselvam seconded the motion.
- xiii. Ms. Brown said that Milkweed is the only plant that the monarch butterfly can survive on and that's why she chose that plant.
- xiv. Mr. Gaines suggested we check to confirm that it is not toxic to pets and children before ordering. Ms. Brown will check.
- xv. Mr. Suffian looked it up on Google and found that it is mildly toxic to dogs and cats.

**f. Community service individual projects**

- i. Ms. Ross stated that she sent everyone a list with the agenda of possible projects in the spring and possible groups to assist.
- ii. Ms. Ross said projects will likely start at the end of April when weeds start to grow.
- iii. **Planting trees at pool** – Ms. Ross said Ms. Mancini could take on the 4 Oak trees ordered for the pool.
- iv. Ms. Ross stated that we are waiting to find out if we will receive funding for the PECO Green Region grant,.
- v. Mr. Gaines asked if it was a good idea to have deciduous trees in an area near a pool. Ms. Ross stated they would be put in a corner area that will not affect the pool (leaves falling in pool). Andy made the plan.
- vi. Ms. Mancini stated she would not have picked these trees because of staining issues.
- vii. Mr. Gaines suggested Ms. Mancini talk to Andy to see if this is where the trees should go or if this is the type of tree to use.
- viii. **Pollinator Garden at Weisel** - Eric Blealer an Eagle Scout canadite, will plant a pollinator garden. This garden was put in as a match to PECO grant and he will do the fund raising for the project to buy the plugs.
- ix. **Maintenance of the basins** – Ms. Brown will decide which ones need to be maintained this spring. Ms. Brown said maybe she and Ivy could go out and look at them to see which ones need work. Township engineer contacted Ivy to see if a few rock damns could be planted across the concrete flow channels at the Buttercup basin, to take credit for MS4. Mr. Gaines suggested we do it now while the ground is frozen.
- x. Ms. Ross reported that Meghan Soltys contacted her that the basin at Pickertown and Folly is holding water like it hasn't in 20 years. Ms. Schemm stated that it could be caused by ice partially blocking the channel. Ms. Ross stated that the township will keep an eye on it.
- xi. **Maintenance of the cluster planting at Lower Nike** – Ms. Ross stated that we could use volunteers to assist.
- xii. Ms. Brown suggested that we use the 2nd Tuesday of each month to do a project and Ms. Ross said maybe we have NHS kids and other volunteers to do it and we send one EAC member out to monitor their work. If that doesn't work we can look to use EAC members to do the work.

- xiii. **Bird houses** - discussed earlier
- xiv. **Roadway/Bradford cleanups** -
- xv. Mr. Gaines stated that shrubs around flagpole at township building took a beating this winter and may need to be cleaned up.
- xvi. Ms. Schemm stated that the EAC needs to put on its agenda the park that is supposed to be adjacent to the new police station. We need to do some planning and get input on how the park should be setup. The park will be less than 1/4 acre in size.

**g. Dark Skies Declaration**

- i. Mr. Gaines, Ms. Schemm, Ms. Ross - working with township solicitor - Dark Skies Declaration at Upper Nike, IPW and Lions Pride park to reduce the lighting to security purposes only. Create opportunity for quiet part of the township. This would make it a formal process.
- ii. Mr. Gaines asked about declaring Mill Creek and Weisel. Ms. Schemm stated that those are already protected. Ms. Ross stated that Weisel Preserve would be part of the Master Plan.
- iii. Ms. Schemm said this would help to create a "Green Way" for Warrington residents.
- iv. Ms. Schemm reported on the new fireworks ordinance, it should reduce the use of fireworks.

**h. Open Space Update**

- i. Ms. Ross reported that there is a draft master plan
- ii. Ms. Ross is doing a grant application to build a new park and refurbish the old park at Willow Knoll community. Josh Adams is raising money to help with the project.
- iii. Ms. Ross is doing another grant for Sections B and C of the trail system through DCNR funding. DVRPC funding could be used as a match for the DCNR grant if it is awarded.

**2. Future Agenda Items**

- a. Mr. Pannerselvam asked if we should put deer management on the agenda for next meeting

**3. Adjourn** – Mr. Baratz motioned, Ms. Brown seconded motion to adjourn at 9:58 pm., all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Baratz  
EAC Secretary