



**Warrington Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Minutes of the Hybrid Zoom/In-Person Meeting
March 2, 2022**

- 1. Call To Order, Pledge Of Allegiance:** Fred Suffian, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. Present were: Barbara Brown, Member; Ivy Ross (onsite), Vice Chairman; Fred Suffian (onsite), Chairman; Guy Powell, Member; Fred Gaines (onsite), Supervisor; Nick Weremeychik, Member; Adele Weremeychik, Member; Todd Baratz, Secretary; Marilyn Laurelli, Member; Mike Diorka (onsite), Supervisor; Steve Palmieri (onsite), Member; Ruth Schemm, Supervisor.

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

- 2. Public Comment:**
Michael Gross, public; Jake Kornegay, public; Carol Baker, public; Doug Edwards, presenter.
There was no public comment.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**
Ms. Brown motioned to approve minutes as written.
Ms. Laurelli seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

- 4. Business:**

- a. Presentation - Exact Solar - Mr. Doug Edwards (of Exact Solar)**

Mr. Edwards presented methods for the township to use solar energy to meet its energy needs.

- b. Discussion of EAC Goals and Ordinance - Group**

Tabled until the end of the meeting or will be handled through e-mail.

Mr. Gaines stated that the supervisors are looking for something as simple as possible.

An evaluation of the ordinance that's in the township code to determine if the mission of the EAC needs to be changed or updated looking at short- and long-term goals.

Mr. Gaines also stated that the ordinance will be used by the department managers as they're putting together their budgets and goals.

Mr. Gaines stated that there have been overlapping goals by committees and the supervisors are hoping this will eliminate those overlaps.

c. Open Space Tree Removal by Resident - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that Ms. Brown has found a landscape company that will be able to get trees and shrubs.

Ms. Ross, Ms. Brown and Ms. Schemm visited the site to determine what needs to be planted.

A letter will be put together and delivered to the resident with the cost to replace the items that were illegally removed.

Ms. Ross stated that all open space parcels have been determined and noted so that they can be tracked and residents that violate open space parcels can be held accountable.

Ms. Laurelli stated the conservation district should have been contacted to evaluate the violation if it is near a stream or riparian buffer so that they can make a report.

Mr. Gaines asked if we are covering up something that needs to be reported and suggested that we ask the township attorney.

d. Weisel Preserve Spring Planting - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross reported that a bid package has been put together to do the Weisel spring planting using the two grants that were funded. It will be sent out on 3/7.

Ms. Ross hopes to do the planting by the middle of May (it needs to be done by middle of June).

Ms. Ross stated that the plants and shrubs will be planted along the trail.

Ms. Ross also reported that we won a \$5,000 grant from Bucks Beautiful. Since it is only \$5,000 we do not have to bid out the project so we will not have to pay "prevailing wage".

Ms. Ross stated these funds will be used for trees and shrubs along the Weisel trail.

e. PHS Spring Planting - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian stated that we will be receiving 15 trees from Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Will be sending the invoice by 3/11. We need to prepare a check and send a public works crew to pick up the trees.

Mr. Suffian also stated that the trees can be picked up between the 15th and the 22nd of April.

Mr. Suffian would like to plant the trees on the 22nd of April.

Mr. Suffian asked that the members keep Friday 4/22 and Saturday 4/23 to assist with planting.

f. Day of Community Service - Group

Mr. Suffian confirmed that 5/21 was the confirmed date with a rain date of 5/22.

Ms. Ross asked Ms. Brown to put together a list of projects.

Ms. Brown stated that she divided the projects into two sections. One for just EAC members like the pollinator gardens and some for community member volunteers.

Ms. Brown stated that she kept the number of projects low so that they can be properly supervised and done well. She stated that all the projects were detailed in an e-mail that was sent earlier in the day.

Ms. Brown also stated that there could be a project at the swim club if there were excess volunteers.

Ms. Ross stated that Public Works requested that flowers be planted at the memorial garden and the Lower Nike signs.

Mr. Suffian stated that those sites become overrun with weeds after several months and were not maintained by Public Works. Annual planting maintenance are not the responsibility of the EAC.

Mr. Suffian stated that we need to choose projects that are sustainable and have value.

Ms. Ross stated that Public Works may need to do the flower planting rather than have volunteers do it.

Ms. Ross proposed a three-hour event so that we don't have to provide lunch and Ms. Ross did not want to have to ask restaurants for food when they are just getting back after Covid.

Several of the members stated that they agreed with Ms. Ross.

Ms. Ross stated that we should not build any bluebird boxes or bat houses, which would free up Mr. Weremeychik and Mr. Baratz to be used elsewhere.

Ms. Ross stated that 5,000 daffodil bulbs were planted at Lions Pride Park and we could have younger scouts snip the sprouts.

Mr. Suffian questioned whether the site was being mowed.

Mr. Suffian stated that we need to tell Public Works not to mow for 3 weeks after the daffodils have sprouted.

Mr. Suffian stated that we need to mark off the area or it will likely be mowed.

Ms. Ross stated that there will be an event on June 1st selling 45 pollinator plug packets at the Warrington Farmers Market. Each packet of 5 plugs will be sold for \$5.00.

Ms. Ross stated that the EAC will be at the pool on June 4th to plant a sample pollinator garden. Plug packets will be available for purchase during the swim club event, as well.

g. Edible Forest Improvements - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian suggested that members take a walk from the bird blind to the powerline trail. Indigenous Ingenuities finished their project and removed all of the invasive plants.

Mr. Suffian stated that he wants to identify native plants with signs.

Ms. Ross reported that Brown Leaf Greenbriar was seen near Lions Pride on an adjacent parcel. It has very large thorns and has taken over the entire area and is moving towards the Lions Pride Park near the area of the wetlands conversion project.

Ms. Ross asked if we can have Indigenous Ingenuities quote a price to remove.

h. Tree Project for Scout Troop - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that Ms. McCauley has not contacted her regarding this project.

Ms. Ross stated that another scout contacted Ms. Ross about building a bee habitat and put it in one of the parks for her Gold Award project. It will probably be installed next to the pollinator garden at Lower Nike.

i. Climate Action Plan Update - Mr. Suffian

Mr. Suffian reported that the subcommittee continues to meet every week and every third or fourth week an educational session is held by ICLEI, US. Solar is a large part of the planning effort.

Mr. Suffian stated the committee is starting to model the changes using Clear Path.

Mr. Suffian also stated that they are doing a two-tier action plan, how can the township reduce its energy needs, and how can the community reduce its energy needs.

Mr. Suffian may want to rename the plan to "Energy Independence Plan". They are starting to put together the draft plan and reductions.

Mr. Suffian stated that they have achieved 100 responses from the survey so far.

j. Open Space Update - Ms. Ross

Ms. Ross stated that next Wednesday (March 9th) Natural Lands will present the master plan.

Ms. Ross believes the plan will be really good and can be used for grant applications going forward.

Ms. Ross stated that the presentation will also be given to the Board of Supervisors.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

No future items were discussed.

6. ADJOURN

Mr. Baratz made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Brown seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Baratz
EAC Secretary