West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council

Dec. 1, 2022, 7:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Call Meeting to Order** 7:10pm

**Attendance**

Those committee members in attendance were: Donna Delany, Carys Egan, Vicki Laubach, Rachel McKay, Kathy McDevitt, Wayne Piakowski, Elisabeta Polosca Sheehan

Those committee members not in attendance: none!!

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

MOTION by Carys to approve the November 3, 2022 meeting minutes; second by Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

**Current / Old Business:**

Thank you to Vicki Laubach for her decades of service as a member and often chairperson of the EAC!! She will be missed as she steps off of the committee but will continue to be available for consultation.

**Manager’s Report**

None

**Subdivisions/Variance Applications**

None

**New Business:**

* Nature Club activity – set date – common milkweed planting Opalanie in Jan 21 2023, 22 (rain/snow date)
  + Sowing seeds in tree tube area
  + Motion to set date by Donna, second by Vicki, unanimously approved
* Pick plants to give away next year – one for winter sowing, one to give plants away on Community Day
  + We have lots of partridge pea seeds left over
  + Other plants (and supported wildlife) proposed: serviceberry (cedar waxwing), echinacea, wild geranium, liatris (butterflies)
  + Vicki suggested selecting two plants – one for sun, one for shade
  + Committee members to research availability of seeds and ease of growing from seed for proposed plants
  + Perhaps the high school would grow plants for us?
  + Combine winter sowing seed giveaway with milkweed sowing – Jan 21/22. Sara Shick suggested that we can also give away veggie seeds that Davey Waters has
  + West Vincent Elementary is using the monarch as a theme this school year – EAC can support by continuing to use the monarch as a theme for EAC efforts
* Bird Town Subcommittee Report
  + Vicki sent updated Bird Town resolution to all supervisors
  + When will Supervisors vote on this?
  + Vicki –
    - Bird Town now supported by PA Audobon Council, not Audobon PA
    - Benefits to community – support and education for better environment
    - New website and signs available
    - Where to place new signs – township building and Opalanie?
    - No fee (all volunteer activity)
    - Recommend a WV Bird Town committee (cross twp committees)
  + Annual report prepared by Vicki to be placed in google docs for group editing
  + (Update 12/12 – Kestral box requested and approved)
  + Donation made to Valley Forge Audobon in appreciation of hikes led by Eric, John, and Patty.
  + Card signed by EAC members sent to Valley Forge Audubon
  + Vicki has the presentation made by Eric to Parks and Rec regarding improvements that can be made to improve our parks for birds and bird watching
* Stormwater Subcommittee Report
  + Wayne
    - Read 2016 road study prepared by twp engineers
    - 116 roads listed – average grade (condition) 7 out of 10
    - 2016 study only includes township roads, not state or private roads which also have an impact on stormwater
    - Suggested that we focus on township roads first
    - Need to talk with Mike Hogga for up to date information
    - Need to review road work planned for 2023 (in budget report)
  + PennDot seems to be most responsive to repairs requested by residents and state reps, not munis
  + Future tours of Camphill and Villanova and expert presentation for HOA’s on stormwater basins
  + Salt watch – Wayne and Carys volunteered
  + An update to the riparian buffer presentation given by Victoria Laubach and Ed Theurkauf will be scheduled after ordinance update complete – probably early 2023
* Litter Lifter Update
  + 15 volunteers participated at the Rt. 100 litter event with Green Valleys Association
  + Shoutout to our PA state troopers for support above and beyond requirements!
  + Creating a sign/display for Henrietta Hankin Library
    - Educational – why we shouldn’t litter
    - Target audience – kids and adults
    - Dara Roberts is pulling relevant books
    - Thank you to Barbara Guy for help with display ideas
    - Installing early January 2023
* Clean Energy Transition Team Update
  + Kathy
    - continuing work in multi municipal VPP grant
    - beginning to create community outreach and education work plan
    - working with West Vincent Elementary on anti-idling campaign
* Heritage Tree Project
  + Vicki - heritage tree mission statement/description is in a notebook at the township building
  + The current team continues to compile data and complete the original Heritage Tree list.
  + Once the team completes this phase, we could review the criteria and refine and update if that seems advisable
  + Then, a newsletter article could inform residents about the program and invite tree owners to nominate their trees for the program
  + Rachel – could put GPS coordinates (or approximate) on a map and post on EAC web page
* Stream-Naming Project – Vicki will continue work on this effort

**Future Dates:**

* Winter Tree ID – Dec. 3, 1pm
* Pet pics with Santa – twp building, 12/10 1-3pm
* Sustainability meeting – trash and recycling presentation – 12/21 7pm
* Next EAC meeting, 1/5/2023, 7pm

**Updates From Other Committees**

* Board of Supervisors
* Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee
* Sustainability Committee
  + Seed Swap (planned for 1/28/2023) cancelled
    - Should EAC take responsibility for planning? (no apparent volunteers to plan)
  + Trash/recycling presentation 12/21, 7pm at the twp building
* Parks and Recreation Commission
* Planning Commission
* Open Space Advisory Board
  + Donna – they are reviewing criteria for evaluating properties. Donna will send current criteria to EAC for comment
* Historical Commission.

**Comments or questions from the floor -** none

**Adjourn**

Kathy/Vicki move to adjourn 8:35pm

Minutes prepared by Kathy McDevitt