

West Pikeland Township

Environmental Advisory Council

8/3/2021 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: John Matthews, Bryan Maher, Janet Parry, Glenn Wenger, Donna Switzer, Rich Pomeroy and Linda Reichert. Public: Carin Mifsud, Sarah Newman

- 1) Call to order: 7:31 PM
- 2) Agenda was approved
- 3) Minutes from July 13, 2021 were approved.
- 4) No Public comment
- 5) Old business.
 - a) Pesticide discussion with Northern Chester County (NCC) EAC's on July 18: Glenn discussed the summary of the meeting. Contact HOA presidents in WPT to discuss their pesticide usage policies/ordinances. Maybe present a program to the community how to manage a yard without using pesticides. Bryan will contact the HOA president of Twin Hills to ask about their pesticide ordinances and find out the names of the HOA presidents. WPT has the list of the housing developments, but they do not list the HOA presidents. How do we get this information? What pesticides are used on athletic fields and school property at local schools. Maybe get the High School Environmental Clubs involved. Linda will contact the Montgomery School to find out pesticide use on their campus. Bryan will contact DASD Board member he knows to find out their school policies on pesticide use. Glenn will contact Paul Hurley, principal of Downingtown East High School, to find out pesticide use on their campus. Compile a list of Eco friendly landscapers to share with WPT residents. WPT does not use pesticides on public properties. See if mowing could be reduced in WPT on public lands. Convert more grass areas to native gardens and reduce the number of times the grass is mowed. The NCC EAC group will write up a "Model Public Pesticide-Free Resolution" document and will make it available to EAC's. We can use it as an educational tool for our communities. Contact the PA Dep. of Agriculture to find out when and if they spray in WPT. Glenn will get the link for this. There is a group in West Chester who sells the "No Spray" signs. Glenn will get this link. Rich wanted clarity on our involvement with Educating the community versus Advocating for an action. We should be supporting and educating the township not pushing or "encouraging" an action. Give the community options via education and not demanding what they should do. Bryan read WPT EAC mission statement to the group. It was suggested that many of the ideas from the NCC EAC meeting on July 18 should be brought to the attention of the WPT BOS. Ask them to pass a resolution on many of the above actions. Bryan will contact Melissa to get on the BOS Calendar to present a summary of the above information at a BOS meeting. Next meeting we should discuss Education and the WPT community. Sarah suggested that we put a short educational blurb at the bottom of our webpage, which we could change periodically.
 - b) Chester Springs Library Grant Second event Recap: Linda- Book discussion on July 26, 2021. An excellent meeting with 20 attendees. Would like BOS to attend these events. Good discussion and Nancy did a very good job.
 - c) Pollinator garden partnership with Chester Springs Library: Glenn and Bryan- Met with Nancy and library board member. An area was decided upon and now they need approval from HYS since they own the property. Will use \$400 for the project. Sarah suggested we contact Wilm Penn Foundation for a grant to help design the garden. Will need to partner with WPT Parks and Rec.
 - d) Tree planting at Pine Creek Park: Sarah- Plant trees to help with the riparian buffer around Pine Creek. John and Nancy walked the lower area near the entrance of the park and there is

erosion occurring along the creek. The hay fields are contracted out to a local farmer so cannot plant trees in that area. However, when the contract runs out, maybe the land near the erosion along the creek can be repurposed and convert to a riparian buffer. Sarah consulted the Water Stewards group and maybe partner with them for this project. They are interested, but cannot start until next Spring. The grant will cover all costs and we will provide the labor via volunteers. Will need to pitch this to the BOS- need to come up with a plan. If they agree, the size of hay field will need to be adjusted for bidding next spring. Carin was asked if WPT want to prioritize the reduction of mowing and impacting the budget. She said the main budget for mowing goes toward the athletic fields.

e) Adopt a highway program: Bryan- Still working on it with PennDot.

f) WPT solar ordinance draft: Bryan- Did not get to it.

g) ROE presentation: Ran out of time. Moved to next meeting

6) New Business:

a) 2022 EAC Budget: By mid-August come up with ideas for projects and costs. Doreen wants to know what our projected will be. One idea from John is rent goats for weed removal. He will look into the costs.

b) Sarah Newman was approved to be an Alternate on our council.

7) Adjourn 8:45 PM

Action Items:

1) Bryan- Will contact Twin Hills HOA President about pesticide use in their community.

2) Bryan- Will get a list and contacts for WPT HOAs.

3) Glenn- Will get link for PA Dept. of Agriculture and spraying pesticides

4) Glenn- Will get link for the "No Spray signs .

5) Linda- Contact Montgomery School to find out pesticide use on their grounds.

6) Bryan-Contact DASD school board member about pesticide use

7) Glenn-Contact Paul Hurley about pesticide use at Downingtown East High School.

8) Bryan- Contact Melissa to present at BOS meeting on the pesticide use ideas discussed in item 5(a).

9) John- Will Find out the cost of renting goats for weed removal.