

## 2/15/23 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

**Present:** A. Strout, D. Robb, D. Smith, J. Walter, Maggie Rash (Supervisor Liaison)

**Absent:** S. Yerkes, Ruth Foster

**Visitors:** Jeff and Rachel Faunce, Nita Shah, Laura Mein. **Via Zoom:** Jeff and Amy Mathers

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes. The minutes for the January meeting were approved unanimously without amendment.

### **On-going business**

- Landscape practices and the watershed. As we have been unable to gain traction on a roundtable aimed specifically at landscape practices and/or sustainable agriculture, discussion turned to broadening the scope to water quality generally. Don Robb noted that studies have shown 90% of tested wells contain microplastics so this could pertain to single use plastic reduction as well. Jim Walter noted that Stroud Water Research Center is the acknowledged leader in this field on the East Coast and he will contact them regarding their support. Maggie Rash noted that Matt Broad has expressed interest in this topic; she will contact him. Other recommendations include getting Karen Ogden from the BCCD, area CSAs and local beekeepers. An organizing meeting needs to be convened as soon as possible.
- Neshaminy Greenway Trail. Last month, Andrea Strout wrote to Richard Brahler, director of Transportation Planning for the county, asking him for a summary of the public comments on the proposed trail or access to them comments themselves. She was told that no new issues were raised by anyone during the comment period and the design remains as committed.
- Single use plastics. The survey is ready to be transmitted once a final check is done by Andrea. She committed to having it to Maggie by 2/16. Post meeting note: This assignment is completed. As of the writing of these minutes (2/20/23) the survey is not yet available on the township website.
- Ready for 100 (RF100). A few changes were made to the stakeholder list in the ETP as a result of the 2/1/23 meeting with the township manager. Noted at that meeting was that the township's new electricity contract calls for 50% renewable energy. Maggie will get the actual numbers for us. The Community Energy Strategic Planning (CESP) group is working on a climate action plan template for municipal facilities and is expected to publish it later in the summer. Other points of note are that a solar powered aerator for the Hansell Park pond is being investigated, and that LED lights have been installed at the public works building on Upper Mountain Road and the township building, resulting in significant savings in both dollars and kWh.
- Tree grants. Tree tubes to arrive March 12 and trees to arrive in early April.
- Township website. Winter tips are up on the site.
- Native Plant Sale. Seven species were selected for this year's sale.

### **New Business**

- Beginning gardening and lawn-to-meadow conversion: Lisa Broad has volunteered to lead a startup class on these topics. Originally suggested for the day of the native plant sale, this was quickly changed to the township community day as the plant sale day is too hectic for a meaningful class.
- Neshaminy Watershed Association. The NWA is applying for a development grant to construct an AI driven portal that will be able to quickly answer plain English questions pertaining to the watershed. There are at least 10 studies already in existence that detail information about the watershed, including plants, insects, macroinvertebrates, etc. The NWA is requesting a letter of support from the Township for this endeavor no later than March 15. Jim will write an initial draft and forward it to Andrea for editing, who will then pass it on to Maggie and the Board for final edits and approval.

### **Visitor Concerns**

Visitors to the meeting were concerned about mulch particulate air and water pollution being generated by Froelich Farm. The issue has become so significant, they said, that Bridge Valley Elementary School was evacuated in early December due to "smoke," which was actually particulate matter. This pollution also extends to runoff impacting area surface water. Maggie noted that the township has already taken steps to address the issue as the license of the business in question does not permit the mulching operation. Unfortunately, this is a slow process. She will keep us updated on progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Smith, Secretary and Vice Chair