

11/20/24 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

Present: J. Walter, D. Smith, A. Strout (via Zoom), R. Foster, D. Rob

Absent: S. Yerkes

Visitors: L. Mein, N. Lykon, O. Zalme, S. Weisser, R. Hengst, L. Braud

Administration

- Jim Walter called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm
- The minutes from the September and October meetings were approved as amended

Audubon Birdtown USA Designation

- No update, application still in progress

Local Climate Action Program (LCAP)

- At the township's request, the presentation has been delayed until January 2025 due to the holidays. The LCAP interns are amenable to this change
- Andrea Strout requested that the EAC draft a proclamation in recognition of the township administrators who are working diligently on this, the EAC agreed

Tree Planting

Laura Mein, several other Master Watershed Stewards and Jack DeBoyace organized the CB East volunteers who planted the latest delivery of trees from the 10 Million Trees grant on November 5. Due to the ongoing drought, the township has watered the new plantings twice. Additional trees have been damaged or destroyed by the firm doing mowing/weed whacking. These will be replaced. It was recommended that a letter of guidance on the distance from the trunks of trees be drafted for the new maintenance company and that training be given on it.

Sensory Garden Update

- Approximately 750 person-hours will be spent on developing and installing the sensory garden design, including both hardscaping and landscaping, the design for which will be presented at the 12/18/24 meeting. Needs from the township are piping for water (restroom facilities are nearby so this is entirely feasible) and earth-moving equipment. Lisa Braud volunteered the use of her equipment for this and would also like to support the project with some plant materials

Visitor Concerns

- Owen Zalme introduced himself to the group and expressed an interest in being more involved. He is a self-proclaimed “ecological restoration geek” with particular interest in lawn to meadow conversion. It was suggested that he draft a newsletter article on this topic and potentially a special mailing for HOAs on the subject
- Lisa Braud expressed concern about the on-going PFOS and spray field issues. She volunteered to help with communications on these issues

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Smith

12/12/24