

01/15/25 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

Present: J. Walter, D. Robb, A. Strout

Absent: R. Foster, D. Smith, S. Yerkes

Visitors: Lisa Braud, Owen Zalme

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

New business

Approval of the November and December minutes was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

Old/ongoing business

Tree-planting

- Jim Walter reported that the EAC assisted Parks & Recreation with the planting of 35 trees in November. Question for consideration: do we want to help them with another 25 trees in the spring? P&R will augur, but multiple hands will be needed to speed the work along
- Jim also reported that the folks from Bucks Beautiful were extolling the virtues of working with Buckingham Township—a great thing to hear from a local grant-making body
- The group discussed Buckingham Township's 325th anniversary: the activities planned (including the planting of a large tree in front of the township building) and how the EAC might add value to those plans. Jim has applied for 50 “tubling” trees to be given out to residents on a first-come, first-served basis at the event. Trees could then be planted in one of our parks in memory or honor of someone or along with a time capsule
- Lisa Braud suggested geotagging the trees so that people could come back to visit “their” tree in one of our parks, thereby becoming part of Buckingham forever
- Waiting for Mary Jane Atkinson to finalize plans

BirdTown

- Presentation to Board has been postponed until Diane's return

Water quality seminars

- Waiting for Gary Weaver to confirm dates
- Seminars will include experts in PFAS and septic systems from Penn State
- Andrea to send update on sprayfields to John Francis of Solebury at his request
- Andrea to post on *Bucks County Herald's* calendar
- Lisa B. to create promotional materials to go out with water bills; Andrea to edit
- Owen Zalme noted a lack of understanding of sprayfields, including on the part of the County Health Department
- Jim noted that sprayfield technology is actually pretty good at breaking down PFAS's and that “forever chemicals” is a misnomer
- General discussion of sprayfield technology's popular misperceptions (including that liquid hog waste is used in our municipal operations) and the need for public education

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- Andrea updated the team on the Penn State students' progress and upcoming presentation to the Board at the February 26th Work Session, asking everyone to attend

Single Use Plastics (SUP)

- Don to be interviewed by a student regarding efficacy/need for plastic bag ordinances
- Don recently reviewed our past SUP efforts and wants to renew them after the CAP is complete

Road salt

- Jim noted that there is new technology available that reduces the amount of salt needed on roads

Visitor concerns

- Owen Z. noted the completion of his "Goodbye Lawn, Hello Pollinators" piece. Jim suggested running it in the newsletter to coincide with the meadow installation at Holicong Park Extension

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Strout for Ruth Foster,
Recording Secretary