

## 05/21/25 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

**Present:** D. Smith, R. Foster (by phone), D. Robb, A. Strout

**Absent:** J. Walter, S. Yerkes

**Visitors:** Lisa Braud, Susan Pierson, Stephanie Weisser, Owen Zalme

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **New business**

Minor corrections were made to April's minutes and they were approved.

### **Old/ongoing business**

- *Clean energy:* Andrea Strout gave an update on the township's Climate Action Plan (aka the Environmental Action Plan, or EAP), which is currently with the Penn State team for updating of its forecasting. Once PSU sends its draft, the document will be circulated for comments, changes and action
- *Bird Town:* Diane Smith reported that Buckingham had been officially accepted as a Bird Town after a yearlong process. Jim Walter, Brittany Clark, Diane and Heidi Shiver of Bird Town are scheduled to meet on May 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss next steps
- *Meadow installation:* The group discussed how best to protect and maintain the meadow and educate the public about it. Landscape crews have often damaged new trees, etc., but a new landscaping company has been hired. Susan Pierson mentioned recent damage to trees by landscaping crews in Bush Park. It was clear to everyone that "Do Not Mow" signage is not going to be sufficient, and that some kind of training and monitoring needs to be in place. Owen Zalme suggested string fencing around the perimeter. A QR code system was also suggested, letting landscaping crews know which plants are noxious. Andrea volunteered to write an article on Buckingham's meadow for *The Herald*
- *Storm drain markers.* Initial install (of 600 makers) called off for rain. Difficult getting people to sign up. Jack DeBoyance of See Green created a SurveyMonkey sign-up page at CB East and had no takers. Susan suggested recruiting volunteers through NextDoor and/or the Bucks County Foodshed Alliance newsletter, which reaches 3,500+ people, and volunteered to do a 2-paragraph write up on the project. Stephanie Weisser said she will begin installation her own development (Hearthstone). Andrea volunteered herself and son-in-law for help. Group felt that permission shouldn't be needed for this township initiative
- *Trees.* Jim W is handling the updates of Buckingham's tree list, and the conversation was largely tabled in his absence. However, group discussed the need to do an inventory of trees of significant historic or aesthetic value. Susan suggested we contact the Heritage Conservancy for help with this, and thought NextDoor would again be a good volunteer-recruitment vehicle. Buckingham's desire for Tree City designation was discussed, along with the spread, identification and treatment of Beech Leaf Disease (BLD), which Jim had alerted the group to after last month's meeting. The risk-benefit of BLD treatments was discussed at length, and PSU cited as a good resource for further information
- *Plant sale.* Sale was deemed a success, with all inventory sold. (Last year, had some leftover inventory, so pulled back on number of kits this year.) Stephanie suggested trying Venmo again next year

- *Visitor & other concerns.*
  - Susan and Lisa Braud talked about a Foodshed Alliance “lawn to habitat conversion” event held at the Brauds’ farm. Both felt strong attendance and interest from the public warranted holding it again next year
  - The group discussed the potential for township--and tax office--building beautification, saying that the now-clipped and mowed grounds could be upgraded with native plants and a demonstration garden that would be a draw for the public and underscore Buckingham’s commitment to the environment. Stephanie suggested introducing the idea of a demo garden at a future Board meeting
  - Diane brought up the algaefication of Lahaska Creek where it crosses Quarry Road. She said a neighbor had mentioned it to her. Diane has raised the issue with Maggie Rash

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Strout for Ruth Foster,  
Recording Secretary