

06/18/25 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Walter, Diane Smith, Ruth Foster, Don Robb, Andrea Strout

Absent: S. Yerkes

Visitors: Owen Zalme

Administration

- Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- The minutes from the May 21, 2025 meeting were approved
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm
- Next meeting: July 16, 2025 at 7 pm at Township Hall upstairs small meeting room

Climate Action Plan update—Andrea Strout

- Penn State Sustainability Institute interns are reviewing EAP forecasting/future predictions following presentation to Supervisors in April. Revised draft from PSU will be circulated for comments before finalizing EAP.
- CAP includes greenhouse gas reduction and energy transition plan using 2005 data baseline to present.
- **Next Step:** Follow-up meeting will be scheduled with township supervisors, township manager and other relevant township officials and partners to present final EAP

Audubon Birdtown USA Designation Update—Diane Smith

- As the Audubon Society has designated Buckingham Township as a certified Pennsylvania Birdtown and resolution approved (Supervisor Meeting 03/25/25), Buckingham will meet certain accomplishments and reporting requirements.
- Bird Town Team: Diane Smith, Jim Walter, Brittany Clark, Barbara Rintala, Stephanie Weisser, Linda Carol Gray, Linda DeMario Heidi Shiver.
- **Next Steps:** (May 29 team meeting)
 - Schedule photo and generate announcement for newsletter and public publication

- Birdtown presentation scheduled for Supervisor meeting in July, 2025
- Birdtown signage will be located in various entry points into the Township and at town parks.
- Annual report: accomplishments can also include meadow construction and maintenance, native plant sale, presentations scheduled by PADEP to town, construction of bird friendly devices like chimney swifts towers, Eagle Scout projects involving construction of bluebird houses, bat houses, etc.

Storm Drain Markers – Stephanie Weisser

- Buckingham has acquired 600 additional public information markers for storm drains to prevent contaminated surface water discharge to streams, creeks, wetlands, etc.
- Heritage development on Route 263 in Furlong will receive up to 500 of the drain markers.
- **Next Step:** Schedule storm drain marker application event utilizing volunteers from various organizations: Scout troops, high school honor society and environmental clubs, etc.

Holicong Park meadow creation update—Jim Walter and Owen Zalme

- A \$10,000 PA Department of Natural Resources (PADNR) grant to create a 1.93-acre meadow at Holicong Park with informative plaques was approved at March 26, 2025 supervisors meeting.
- Benefit: Habitat expansion, education opportunity for community, additional stormwater management



- **Next Steps:**

- Construction: August 2025 to Spring 2026
 - August/September 2025—application of herbicide to remove grass
 - September/October – 2-3 week tilling/planting seeds; install informative signs. Proposed meadow plantings include deer-resistant perennials supplied by heritage Conservancy and Bowman's
 - Spring 2026 – Spring blooms, contractor will do first mowing; long-term maintenance plan
- Long-term maintenance: mow perimeter, Buckingham takes over maintenance 1 year after completion
 - A new contractor for mowing should avoid damaging trees
- Communications: Andrea Strout is working on article for local paper and newsletter meadow project and its benefits. Website will be updated with guidance on how an individual can develop a wildflower meadow on their property. Buckingham and the Conservation District will schedule a Town Hall public information roundtable event

Update Buckingham Tree List

- Buckingham is pursuing updating the 2009 municipal planting and tree list. The list is currently divided by street trees, community subdivision trees, perennials, etc. Native plants will be emphasized.
- **Next Steps:**

- Buckingham will apply for an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA designation
- Jim Walter has consulted with PA State Forester, local nurseries, master gardeners, sensory garden workers, and residents for input on tree list.
- Inventory trees within the Township of exceptional natural and historic value and pursue designation and protection.
 - Consult with Bucks County Historical Society and solicit input from residents; tour municipality to identify exceptional value trees visible from roads – size, type, estimated age, any known historic photos of the tree.
 - Generate a request for residential input in newsletter
- Update Tree Ordinance to prevent removal of more than 20% of trees over a designated diameter – consider other local model ordinances. Ex: Doylestown; update guidance on protecting trees during maintenance mowing.

Tax Building Planting Project

- Jim Walter recruited master gardeners to design a plantings and demonstration garden around the tax building on the corner of Rt 413 and Hugesian Drive.
- A site visit is scheduled for week of June 25, 2025 to identify appropriate native plants
- **Next Steps:** When a plan is developed, present to Bucks Beautiful and Township to identify funding sources, a construction schedule for as early as Fall 2025 as well as volunteer list to perform construction.

Holicong Day in the Park

- On Thursday June 26, 2025, 11 am to 2 pm at Holicong Park, EAC presented literature on Birdtown designation and guidance for maintaining bird friendly property, information on stormwater management and potable well monitoring, master gardener farm to table booklet for review, demonstration of stream maintenance.

Next Steps Summary

- **Climate Action Plan**—Andrea to schedule follow up meeting with township supervisors, township manager and other relevant township officials and partners to present final EAP
- **Birdtown**--Schedule photo and generate announcement for newsletter and public publication
 - Birdtown presentation scheduled for supervisor meeting in July 2025
 - Birdtown signage will be located in various entry points into the Township and at town parks
 - Annual report: accomplishments can also include meadow construction and maintenance, native plant sale, etc.
- **Storm Drain Markers**—Schedule storm drain marker application event utilizing volunteers from various organizations: Scout troops, high school honor society and environmental clubs, etc.
- **Update Tree List and Tree Inventory**—Apply for an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA designation; follow-up consultation with state forester and other consulting partners on tree list; inventory trees within the Township of exceptional natural and historic value; consult with Bucks County Historical Society; generate a request for residential input in newsletter; update Tree Ordinance
- **Tax Building Planting Project**—When a plan is developed, present to Bucks Beautiful and township to identify funding sources, a construction schedule for as early as Fall 2025 as well as volunteer list to perform construction.
- **Next EAC meeting is Wednesday July 23, 2025 at 7 pm in Township Building**