

# EAC Meeting Minutes

January 24th 2024 7 PM

Free Library of Springfield Township

## Attending

- Stephen, Martin, Gail, Joy, Pat, Aaron, Chuck, Richard, Brendan, Patrick, Zeta

## Audience

- It's a packed house!!!!
- Chris Weth, Beth Zelaski (natives/no mow), Jeff Richards (gas powered lawn equip), Karissa Russell (plastic bag ban), Ben Schimeneck, Susan Hodges, Terry Hepner (natives, open space), Alex Klinger (natives, open space), Bud Cook.

## Minutes

- Again the meeting room in the library is excessively hot (again). This has been reported to Ian and Mike prior to EOY and is supposed to be investigated. The energy usage in the library is back to the energy usage before the energy saving changes were put into place. There have been 3 calls for service made.
- Audience introductions.
- Meeting minutes - approved.
- 2024 Officers -
  - Chair - Aaron nominated, no others nominated.
  - Co-Chair - Martin nominated, no other nominated.
  - Recording secretary - Stephen nominated, no other nominated.
  - All voted unanimously.
- Communication
  - Article for Jamie by the EAC for the township newsletter; Stephen will provide her the modified article about the bag ban.
- Raised request to officially thank Peter Wilson for his service to the EAC during his time as the EAC Board liaison. Have a tree planted in his name for this with a letter or recognition.
- Address vacancy on EAC. Let commissioners know and it will be advertised.
- Upper Dublin EAC gathering - March 10th - looking for people to do presentations. They need an answer today. We will not participate this year.
- [We Conserve PA](#) - Virtual EAC gathering - February 24th.
- Native Plant Sale
  - Are we going to have it? Yes
  - How many plants do we want? 300; 250 and 50 plugs.
  - What date? May 4th
  - Invite: Chemical Free Springfield, Wyncote Audubon, Birdtown.

- Discussion on what the mix is, whether or not we should make a profit.
  - General consensus on this.
- Discussion reestablishing the open space committee to the BoC. Since they've established the matching fund.
  - Motioned for the EAC to submit a letter to the board to start an open space committee now that we have a fund, with a suggestion to include other community groups focused on this, and it will lend to itself the comprehensive plan.
    - Aaron will compose the letter.
  - Pat suggested that, in the interim, we form a subcommittee (of the EAC) to begin to focus on open space goals. Gail Farmer, Ben Schimeneck and Alex Klinger volunteered to join the subcommittee.
- Update on bag ban program guide for pointing to EAC email as address. Zeta suggestion to include picture / article to Chestnut Hill Local. Also contribute an article to Weavers Way, Aaron to take lead on it.
- Leaf blower - Aaron discussed a model for getting feedback in the community for this. Discussion on what is in place and how to reach out to make commissioners aware of interest in this issue. Look at what options there could be to drive both residential and commercial transition to electric lawn equipment. There is quiet clean Philly group. Cheltenham has also started their own quiet clean group.
- Board Updates
  - Tank car company seems to be coming to a close. Now entering a phase on what to do with this. The idea is to have this become a park and capture more open space.
  - Continued discussion on the solar panels on the township buildings. Looking through the costs of it and the feasibility. This also extends to looking at the plans for the rec center.
  - Uptick in concern in flooding, mainly Church and Valley Green with some of the recent storms. Discussion of collaborating with other townships to help mitigate the issue there.
- Wissahickon Clean Water partnership - Update from Gail. In the process of finalizing a shared water quality improvement plan using three strategies: storm water controls, instream and stream bank restoration and riparian buffer protection and restoration. Going through final changes for another submission back to regulators based on feedback from previous submission. This has been an 8 year long process.
- EAC membership on the website will be updated.
- Site should be updated w/ the new date of the plant sale.
- Meeting adjourned

## Post meeting update on more information on the Wissahickon Clean Water partnership

The Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership is a coalition of 13 municipalities and four wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) collaborating to improve the health of the Wissahickon Creek. The Wissahickon Creek is an impaired waterway, where the health of the stream does not meet the needed conditions to support aquatic life and as such the Wissahickon is protected under the Clean Water Act. Under the Clean Water Act, each municipality within the watershed is required to reduce pollutants entering the creek and improve the impairments to aquatic life. The Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership is an alternative approach to meeting these regulatory requirements that will save municipalities money and capacity, while maximizing impact, by working together on a watershed-wide scale. The Partnership's overarching goal is to synthesize a holistic watershed plan that protects and improves the Wissahickon Creek for all to enjoy. The proposed plan focuses on 4 key strategies for improving the health of the Wissahickon and its tributaries: improved stormwater management, in-stream and stream bank restoration, riparian buffer improvements and protections, and continued WWTP monitoring and facility optimization. Implementation of these strategies will involve watershed-wide project identification, prioritization, and implementation, coordinated policy improvement across the municipalities of the watershed (ordinance review and updates), and public education and engagement programs. By working together on a coordinated solution, the Partnership aims to emphasize local interests, to ensure that no municipality is alone in combating stormwater pollution, and to help municipalities, sewer authorities, and taxpayers keep costs down in the long run.

The Partnership is in the final stages of drafting the shared water quality improvement plan which will then be shared with the regulators (PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency) for their review. For more information on the Partnership, visit:

<https://wissahickontrails.org/news/the-wissahickon-clean-water-partnership>

### Action items

- Brendan to confirm how long Peter has been on as EAC liaison.
- Aaron to draft a letter to board for vacancy, and advocating for an open space committee.