

EAC Meeting Minutes

April 27th 2022 – 7 PM

Free Library of Springfield Township

Attending

EAC Members:

- Aaron Stemplewicz
- Joy Bergey
- Pat Hynes
- Desiree Rammon
- Chris Richter
- Zeta Cross
- Richard Metz, EAC Associate
- Patrick Eddis, EAC Associate
- Peter Wilson, Commissioner Liaison
- Brandon Ford, Staff Liaison

Guests/Public Participants:

- Chris Weth
- Martin Ryan

Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 2022 Meeting of the EAC. **All in favor.** Township staff were directed to make the minutes available on the Township website on the next business day.

DISCUSSION

No Mow May

- Martin Ryan of Erdenheim raised the issue of No Mow May for discussion by the EAC. M. Ryan conveyed his view that the movement was beneficial to pollinators was a more natural way to maintain one’s yard. EAC member Z. Cross supported M. Ryan’s comment and suggested that the EAC publically support No Mow May. Z. Cross brought in yard signs in support of No Mow May to show the EAC and suggested that the EAC could hand the signs out to residents interested in participating.
- P. Wilson and B. Ford shared that the Springfield Township Board of Commissioners discussed No Mow May earlier in April 2022 as a result of resident inquiries and that the Board were not supportive of the movement. P. Wilson and B. explained that the Board was concerned over public safety and welfare that could result from “unkept” lawns.

- Several EAC members expressed their disappointment in the Board’s opposition to No Mow May and discussed the possibility of asked the Commissioners to reconsider.
- M. Ryan made the suggestion that the EAC could advocate for a “test” of No Mow May whereby only a handful of residents would be permitted to not mow their yard in order to demonstrate to the Board that neighbors would not take issue with the lack of lawn maintenance.
- A motion was made and seconded to draft a letter to the Board asked them to reconsider their opposition to No Mow May and seek their permission to support the movement on a test or trail basis. **All in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS & PROJECT UPDATES

Social Media

- EAC member C. Richter reported on the EAC’s social media presence. C. Richter thanks all members who have contributed content and shared that the post on the plastic bag survey has been the most widely shared and popular post.

Renewable Springfield

- EAC Vice-Chair J. Bergey informed those in attendance that she accompanied Township public works staff and Mr. Wilson to an Electric Refuse/Garbage Truck demonstration. J. Bergey shared that the vehicle is still cost-prohibitive, ranging about x3 the price of a regular refuse truck at about \$750,000. This price does not include the necessary cost of installing charging infrastructure.
- SOLARIZE – J. Bergey stated that she and the solarize Springfield subcommittee of renewable Springfield plan to host another solar tour this October. As a refresher, the Township/EAC hosted their first solar tour in October 2021. Several homes with solar volunteered to open their doors to visitors and talk about their solar experiences. Anyone interested were welcome to stop by any and/or all the participating homes.

Plastic Bag Ban

- EAC Associate member R. Metz reported that 42 individuals have responded online to the survey to gauge public support for a plastic bag ban in the Township. Hard copies of the survey and a drop box are available at the Library and the link to the digital survey has been posted on the Township website and shared on social media. R. Metz plans to solicit participation in the business survey by visiting every business with P. Wilson.

NEW BUSINESS

Associate Member Resignation

- B. Ford shared that Associate EAC member M. Brookes submitted her resignation. A motion was made and seconded to accept M. Brookes resignation from the EAC.

Native Plant Sale

- Z. Cross suggested that the EAC host a native plant sale to promote the benefits of native plant species. The idea would be to purchase 50 plants from Collins Nursery and sell them at cost to interested residents. The sale could take place outside the library and occur on a Saturday. May 22 from 11-1 was decided for the Plant Sale. Z. Cross is to provide B. Ford with a proposal detailing the event to share with the Board of Commissioners at their May meeting. Funds for the purchase of the plants are to come for the EAC's budget.

May EAC Meeting

- B. Ford shared that he would not be in attendance for the May EAC meeting and asked if the members would still like to continuing meeting on that date. A. Stemplewicz stated that he would be fine cancelling the May meeting. A motion was made and seconded to cancel the May EAC meeting. **All in Favor.**

Haws Lane Project

- A. Stemplewicz & R. Metz brought up the topic of 380-402 Haws Lane for discussion and asked P. Wilson & B. Ford for an update on the proposed private development project for the site. It was shared that there is no new information and that a development plan has not been submitted to the Township for review. EAC Associate member Patrick Eddis & R. Metz urged the EAC to oppose any proposed development at the site.
- A. Stemplewicz voiced his support for opposing the development and offered to draft a letter from the EAC to the Board of Commissioners informing them of the EAC's opposition. A motion was made and seconded instructing A. Stemplewicz to draft a letter in opposition to the Haws Lane Development that can be shared with the Board at their May meeting. **All in favor.**

Actions/Next Steps

- Next EAC meeting: June 22 at 7 PM, Library building
- ZETA: provide a Plant Sale Proposal with Details to Brandon
- BRANDON: follow-up with PW on EV sign.
- AARON: draft a letter urging the Board to reconsider No Mow May on a trial basis
- AARON: draft a letter in opposition to Haws Lane