

**East Pikeland Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Present: Samantha Uyeno, Travis Uyeno, Betsy Burns, Zach Rubinich, & Dennis Ray

Absent: Milissa Hirst & Leo Kaercher

Guests: Joel Bartlett & Michelle Rubin (EPT Rep.)

Minutes from the February meeting were approved as read.

- Dennis had a few comments to add about the sustainability plan. He suggested that we take a deeper look into West Vincent's sustainability plan and even invite West Vincent's EAC members to our meeting or get together in another format to ask them questions. Dennis also reiterated that we should reach out to Green Valley Watershed Association to attend our next meeting. Dennis will get in touch with his contact.

Old Business

1. EAC Conference Reminder
 - Betsy reminded the Council that the EAC conference is Saturday, April 14. Michelle will check to see if the early registration has passed. If members are interested in going, contact Michelle.
2. Spring Trail Clean Up
 - Park and Recreation is holding a trail clean up Saturday, April 21 at 9am at Rapps Dam Bridge if members are interested in attending.
3. Earth Day Road Clean Up
 - EAC is sponsoring a road clean up for Sunday, April 22 (Earth Day) at 9am. Meet at the Township parking lot. The group will split in 2, one group will work up Rapps Dam Rd. toward 113/Kimberton Rd., while the other group will carpool and go directly to Kimberton Road and work west from the 113 intersection. Clean up items will be ready in the Township lobby, either Michelle will be here or an EAC member will have a key to get the items.
 - Michelle followed up on the trash pokers. PennDOT does not give them out because people don't return them. She said that if people found old wooden broom handles, a member of the Public Works crew could make a few.

New Business

1. Master Watershed Steward
 - Michelle informed the EAC about the Master Watershed Steward Program and explained what participants would need to do in order to receive the designation (8 classes on

Tuesdays 6-8:30pm; 3 fieldtrips on Saturdays 8:30am-3pm; pass a test; complete 50 hours of volunteer service). There will be an info session about the Master Watershed Steward program held at the Township building on April 24 at 6pm.

2. Board of Supervisors Report
 - Betsy and Dennis will present at the April 3 Board of Supervisors meeting. They will update the Board on the goals for 2018 and any planned projects. Michelle will send some talking points.
3. Invasive/Native, etc. resources
 - EAC members looked into already created resources that they can leverage to educate the community.
 - Samantha reached out to the Penn state extension and was given a contact at the county office. She will get in touch to see if they have anything the EAC can use.
 - Michelle reported that Milissa found soil testing info
 - Betsy found a few articles about invasive species
 - Need to find more information about native species
 - Michelle suggested that we need to make a more visual handout with pictures of invasives for the trail clean up
 - Members asked if we could print resources at the Township. Michelle will find out how much can be printed through the office.
4. Resident volunteer, Trail bird walk
 - Michelle informed the EAC that a resident reached out and is willing to lead a bird walk in the spring.
 - Zach will reach out to him as he could also be a resource for Bird City.
5. Begin mapping the year
 - Michelle asked the EAC members to begin mapping their year out.
 - Bird Walk--A Saturday in May
 - Kimberton Park Party—have a table
 - Stand at the Kimberton Fair
 - Raffle something to get people interested
 - Have a sign up sheet so the EAC can send people info on events/activities
 - Table next to Historical Commission
 - Consider rain garden workshop for fall

Other Comments:

- Dennis mentioned that the EAC looked at the trash hauler last year and decided not to pursue it. Should talk with Leo about the details.
 - Michelle asked if the BOS got the report of their findings, Dennis said he thought they did.
- Michelle explained that she is working on the Park and Recreation Community Survey. She said she could include a few questions focused on environmental activities/education/etc. She asked the EAC members, “what do you want to know?”

- Members said they want to know:
 - What activities and events people are interested in
 - What information are they looking for? (gardening, tree care, fertilizer, rain gardens, sustainable practices, etc.)
 - Would they like open space in its native growth (meadow with walking trails)
- An idea was thrown out about hosting a cookout on the Graham property.

Public Comment

- Joel Bartlett came to introduce himself and be a liaison to the various groups he's involved in that could work with the EAC. He represents the Altair Eco Village, the Phoenixville Green Team, Community Solar, and more.
 - Joel wanted to inform EAC members about these opportunities to be involved and come out to meetings to listen to speakers and other experts in the field. Each group is working on projects to make the region more sustainable.
 - He suggested that the EAC look at the Regional Plan (available on the Phoenixville Website) and read the West Vincent Sustainability Plan but know that it is very broad and needs to be narrowed down here for success.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

NEXT MEETING – April 26, 2018