

**East Pikeland Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Present: Samantha Uyeno, Travis Uyeno, Betsy Burns, Milissa Hirst, Leo Kaercher, & Dennis Ray
Absent: Zach Rubinich
Guests: Victoria Laubach (Green Valleys Watershed Association)
Staff: Michelle Rubin

Minutes from the March meeting were approved as read.

New Business

1. Victoria Laubach, Green Valley Watershed Association

- Victoria is the Executive Director of the Green Valley Watershed Association (GVWA) and has been the chair of West Vincent's EAC on and off for 16 years. GVWA is a nonprofit focused on watershed protection and environmental education. They run a summer camp, school programs, and work with land preservation organizations to preserve land, work on stormwater, and agriculture restoration.
- Victoria shared a number of ideas, opportunities, and potential projects with the Council including:
 - A second Schuylkill Highlands Mini Grant round, PA Audubon Backyard Habitat Program, Grants from DCNR to do a Motis Network, GVWA classes, Stroud Preserve, West Vincent EAC's heritage tree recognition program, seedling tree giveaway at events, and bringing all EACs in the area together.
 - Dennis asked about the WV sustainability ordinance.
 - Victoria explained that they started by looking at Township operations and using the municipality as an example to the residents. They created a pretty comprehensive 5 year work plan which took a year or more to build as they formulated goals for the Township. She will send Michelle the newer version.
 - Michelle asked about rain garden workshops and other educational opportunities.
 - They don't do them at the GVWA, but there are a number of local options for night classes, native plant guides, nurseries that do native plants etc.

2. Kimberton Park Party Planning

- Michelle reminded council members that the event will take place on Saturday, June 2 and asked the council what they would like to have on their table.
 - Members would like to focus on education about becoming a Bird Town and advertise the bird walk at the end of June. They would also like to have a sign up for an e-newsletter and have an opportunity to win a native, bird-friendly tree.

- The council would also like to have the native/invasive handout for people. Betsy will work on getting Michelle information about native options that would be attractive to home owners. There will be 5 in total and a mix of trees, shrubs, flowers, and maybe even grasses.
- Members also discussed advertising a rain garden workshop for the fall, but there are still a lot details that need to be worked out, such as cost and location.
 - Michelle will send out the grant spreadsheet so council members can research funding for rain garden construction.
 - Members will look into rain garden locations in the next month that are central and would be small enough to hold a short workshop. Options discussed include Dennis's back yard, the Township building near the Yard Waste Recycling Center.
 - Michelle will check in with Kim/Al to see if there are places with drainage issues that are being reported to us.
 - If a suitable place can be found a date will be picked at the May meeting.
- Samantha also asked about the Graham property party. Michelle informed the council that nothing was being planned. The council discussed doing hotdogs, music, a bonfire, learn to fish, celebrate the history of the property. This was tabled until next month as well.

Old Business

1. Earth Day Road Clean Up Summary
 - Travis reported that there was a successful turnout for the road clean up. 12 volunteers cleaned up the road from the Township building up Rapps Dam Rd. to 113 and 113 up Kimberton Rd. The volunteer picked up three large truck beds worth of trash and 10 tires.
2. EAC Conference Summary
 - Betsy and Melissa attended. Both had positive things to say, the speakers were excellent and the sessions were informative.
3. Resident volunteer, Trail bird walk
 - The council narrowed down the potential dates to 6/23, 6/24, and 6/30. Michelle will ask Zach to reach out to him to clarify what time of day it will be. Once we have that information the council can select a date and begin to advertise.
4. Invasive/Native, etc. resources
 - Betsy will look into potential natives as previously discussed and get information to Michelle to turn into a hand out.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourned at 8:30