

WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP



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ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR JUNE 13, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

IN ATTENDANCE

Evelyn Burton, Paul DeVincenzo, Jay Megonnell, John Miele, Robert Nicolodi, Marcel Smullen

Friends of the EAC: Patti Estheimer, Carol Buskirk

PUBLIC COMMENT / PRESENTATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes from May 9, 2017 were approved as read.

SUBDIVISION/LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS - none BUSINESS

- Riparian Buffer Update - Marcel reported new growth on the trees and shrubs that were planted and asked about control of Japanese knotweed, which is an invasive plant that is prevalent in the riparian area but the Rec Center as well as in other locations in the township. EAC members discussed methods for controlling its growth.
- Landscape for Life Intro - The Blue Room at the Rec Center has been reserved for January 20, 2018, 10:00 - 12:00 for the program that will be presented by Master Gardener Dolores McGee and an assistant. The EAC will advertise via posters and a notice in the township newsletter, but all material must be approved by the Penn State Extension, which is sponsoring the program. They will also advertise in various news outlets.
- Bluebird Trail Update - Marcel reported a lot of activity in the 9 boxes at Skyline Park, with 4 bluebird fledglings as well as other species. Sometimes one species has displaced another in a box, and one clutch of 7 eggs was attacked by a predator, resulting in an ant infestation. It must be cleaned out to prepare for another nest. Marcel and his son Jay received an award from the Bluebird Society for outstanding reporting on the bluebird trail. The box next to the rain garden at Fairville Park also has bluebirds.
- Tire Recycling Update - Bob presented information from Mahantango Enterprises about tire recycling. The hauler charges by weight, and Bob checked the weight of tires in order to estimate the number that can fit into the trailer. The EAC discussed the costs and a proposed rate to charge for tires. A proposed rate schedule was drawn up, and the EAC will require pre-registration and it will be open to Township residents only. The last time the EAC ran a tire recycling program was in 2013 and the number of tires recycled and procedures were reviewed and discussed. The date will be Saturday, September 30, 2017 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. A newsletter article will notify residents.
- WHT Big Tree Update - Carol reported that the Pin oak in Arondale has been submitted to the state's registry but there has been no word yet on whether or not it will be listed. This tree is the 13th on the Township's registry.
- Pre-app Meetings - John attended pre-app meetings for 2 properties, one at 7600 Allentown Boulevard and the Hess Farm on Pheasant Road. He described the purpose of the meeting and what the intentions of the owners are. Members of the EAC discussed the properties.
- EAC Discussion - Additional Projects / Programs for 2017 - The Township Festival is set for Aug. 19 and the EAC will have a table. Maintenance of the rain garden is on-going. FISH protocols will continue and Marcel described the locations, and John explained the problem with a sandbar and how it affects water flow into a culvert. The recycling brochure will be updated this year, if needed.
- Dauphin County Woodlot Owners' Walk - Jay hosted a walk on his property that was narrated by Andy Brought, DCNR Forester. The EAC discussed some of the noted trees, forest management practices and a vernal pond which provides habitat for amphibians such as frogs, toads and salamanders. .

PUBLIC COMMENTS and/or OTHER BUSINESS

MEETING ADJOURNED

Next Meeting – Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM.