

February 21, 2024 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Walter, Donald Robb, Andrea Strout, Ruth Foster, Supervisor-liaison Maggie Rash

Visitors: Barbara Rintala, Matthew Braud, Lisa Braud

Administration

- Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- The minutes from the January 17, 2024 meeting were approved
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm
- Next meeting: March 20, 2024 at 7 pm at Township Building, small meeting room

Energy Transition Plan Presentation Follow up:

- Andrea gave an update. As a follow-up to the 2020 Township resolution, a draft energy transition plan has been developed that outlines steps the Township can take to avert the worst impacts of climate change through adaptive resiliency measures and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, eventually to zero. The draft was presented to the Board of Supervisors on January 24, 2024
- Next Steps: Once approved, sign up for Climate Action Plan workshop with PA DEP; hold public meeting to review draft vision, goals, schedule, execution, timeline, public comment

Water Quality Roundtable Events (presentations posted to EAC website at Buckinghampa.org/_____)

- **February 3, 2024 Town Hall event review** – Where does your water come from, wellhead protection, how to sample your private potable well
 - Presentations by Gary Weaver of Castle Valley Engineers and Jim Walter
- **February 24, 2024 Town Hall event review** – On site stormwater management, impervious surface reduction, maintaining riparian buffers, streambank restoration, potable and trout stream water quality maintenance, watershed protection, rain gardens, addressing microplastics
 - Presentations by Bucks County Soil Conservation District (Karen Ogden, Logan Freed); Jim Walter; Jim Walter on behalf of Diane Smith; Jeff Schumacher of Schumacher & Associates Landscaping; Rich Hengst of Trout Unlimited; and Andrea Strout

Heritage Conservancy Grant Application Follow-up

- Two grants through PA DOT and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are available via the Heritage Conservancy for an amphibian crossing/culvert repair project on Upper Mountain Road. If awarded, the approximately \$250,000 project would be administered through the Township and include the replacement of three culverts that would improve flood control as well as amphibian species movement. A presentation was made to the EAC at the January 17, 2024 EAC meeting by Tyler Kovaks of the Heritage Conservancy. His presentation is posted to the EAC website at Buckinghampa.org/_____
- Next Steps: Heritage Conservancy presentation to the Board of Supervisors with a clarification of the deadline for application to the State and Federal agencies.

E-Waste recycling Event with Solebury

- Solebury Twp is conducting an E-Waste Recycling Event on April 6, 2024 for Solebury residents
- Next Steps: Buckingham Twp is considering partnering with Solebury as a joint event. To be determined. [UPDATE: Joint effort with Solebury has been canceled; will consider for next year.]

Communications/branding & design

- Andrea is working with Lisa Braud on the creation of recognizable, versatile design assets that can be used on all of our communications going forward

Grant Update – Meadow Creation at Holicong Park

- A \$10,000 PA grant was awarded to Buckingham Twp in December 2023 to create a 2 acre meadow at Holicong Park with educational plaques
- Next Step: follow-up with State and Buckingham Parks and Rec to review schedule.

Audubon Birdtown USA Designation

- Barbara Rintala introduced an opportunity to work with the Audubon Society to designate Buckingham Township as a certified Pennsylvania Birdtown. Buckingham would have opportunity to advance from a Green Certification to Bronze, Silver and Gold levels by incorporating 6 strategies, including municipal actions, school district actions, community engagement, habitat enhancement, collaboration and advocacy.
- Next Steps: Barbara will work with the EAC on a presentation to the Board of Supervisors to review the application process, designation of team members, timing, etc.