

## 05/15/24 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

**Present:** D. Robb, A. Strout, D. Smith, J. Walter, M. Rash

**Absent:** R. Foster, S. Yerkes

**Visitors:** Brittany Clark, Lisa Braud, Victoria Bresnahan, Jack DeBoyace, Mel Rock, Lauren Smith, Stephanie Weisser

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

After a motion by Don that was seconded by Andrea, the March and April minutes were approved.

### **New business**

**EAC communications.** Brittany Clark, director of Special Projects for Buckingham Township, introduced herself. Two months with the township, Ms. Clark said she was working on a website [microsite?] as well as a Facebook and Instagram page for the EAC. EAC members have long pushed for a social media presence as well as greater visibility on the township website, so the announcement was well-received.

### **Old/ongoing business**

**Native plant sale/demonstration gardens.** Jim reported that 120 mini pollinator gardens were sold at the event, with 30 remaining unsold. Suggestions for increasing sales at next year's event included offering a mix of 3 sun-loving and 3 shade-loving plants and promoting the sale heavily on the new website and social media pages. Jim spoke to Mary Jane Atkinson of the township about what to do with the unsold plants and it was decided to add them to the demonstration garden being planted through a joint Bucks Beautiful-Holicong Middle School project. Suggestion was made to include See Green students from CB East. Other gardens in consideration/planning mode include a "sensory garden" at Holicong Park that will accommodate wheelchairs and feature raised beds and pots whose plantings can be touched, smelled, etc. (Diane mentioned that there is a similar healing garden at Bucks County Audubon Society.) Jim noted that while the garden will be maintained by Master Gardeners, start-up financing will be needed.

**Amphibian corridors.** Next steps: Supervisors would like the Heritage Conservancy, which is providing the funds for this roughly \$250K project, to first seek the permission of homeowners whose land the new culverts cross or abut.

**Water-quality roundtable series II.** There was a lot of enthusiasm for a reprise of this past winter's water quality forums, though not before next winter due to the amount of planning involved. Andrea mentioned that the Schumacher folks have already said they would like to participate again. Idea is to keep same 2-part, public water + stormwater management format. Suggestion was made to include spray-fields and septic tanks as topics during the public water portion. Don suggested allowing residents to sign up for tours of Buckingham's spray-fields so they can better understand how they work. Visitor Stephanie Weisser mentioned that she had tried to get spray technology for her garden for 10 years. Visitor Lauren Smith suggested handouts for new residents, mentioning that she didn't know what to do [about her water] as a newcomer to Buckingham 5 years ago. Other suggestions included raffling off water-testing kits or offering them for sale at cost.

**Summer & fall tips.** The group brainstormed some ideas for upcoming environmental tips for residents, including:

- Light pollution. What it is, why it's harmful, how to avoid "light trespass," install sensors, etc.
- How to dispose properly of pool water
- Mosquito control, 101: eliminating standing water on property, mosquito dunks
- "Passive" ways to keep homes cool and electricity bills down (re-tread)
- Non-chemical means of keeping ticks and Japanese beetle numbers down
- For the fall/migration season: window treatments to decrease bird strikes

**Bird Town.** For the benefit of the meeting's visitors, there was a brief recap of where Buckingham stands with its pending Bird Town designation.

**Visitor concerns/proposed warehouse.** Visitor Victoria Bresnahan, who is the environmental person on the Stop the Buckingham Warehouse steering committee, spoke about the group's concerns—safety, air and water quality, light pollution and its effects on birds—and asked about the EAC's awareness of these issues and any thoughts it might offer re next steps. She mentioned her group's assessment that the warehouse was not, in fact, a warehouse but a truck transfer station and thus not allowable under current zoning. A truck transfer station, she said, was required to be located near an arterial road network, not a road like Landisville. Jim mentioned that likely next steps included the PA Department of Environmental Protection asking for an environmental impact study and statement, which would be carried out by the Bucks County Conservation District.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Strout  
Member