

## **July 17, 2024 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes**

### ***FINAL***

**Present:** Jim Walter, Donald Robb, Andrea Strout, Diane Smith, Ruth Foster

**Absent:** Scott Yerkes

**Visitors:** Stephanie Weisser, Lisa Braud, Jack DeBoyace (CB East rep), Laura Mein, Nick Lykon

### **Administration**

- Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
- The minutes from the June 19, 2024 meeting were approved
- The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm
- Next meeting: September 18, 2024 at 7 pm at Township Hall Upstairs small meeting room

### **Day in Holicong Park – Thursday June 27, 2024: 11 am -2 pm at the Pavilion**

- Successful weekday event provided information to those attending the park mid-day with their children. Two reusable bags were distributed.
- Educational information provided by Andrea, Don, Jim, Diane and Lisa: Seed bombs, energy efficiency house model – clean energy incentives, binders with fed/state incentives and QR codes for additional information, watershed information pamphlets, potential child friendly games.

### **Audubon Birdtown USA Designation**

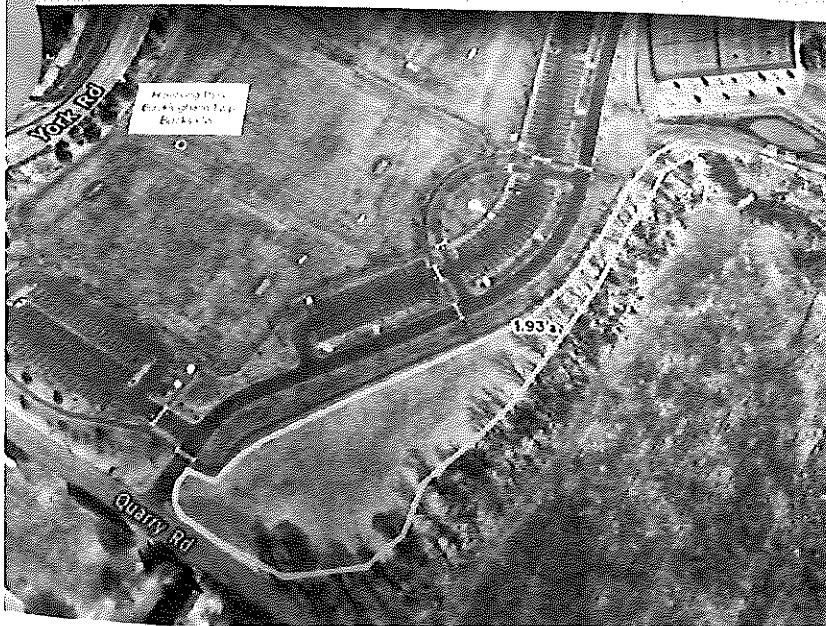
- Diane Smith is leading application process to designate Buckingham Township as a certified Pennsylvania Birdtown. At next meeting Diane will provide an update on the application submitted to Audubon Society by July 31, 2024.
- Committee: Diane Smith, Barbara Rintala, Stephanie Weisser, Linda Carol Gray, Linda DeMario
- Next Steps:
  - Expand committee to include other interested community members;
  - Update EAC website guidance: how to turn school property /private yard / other public property into bird friendly areas.
  - Acquire and install a designation plaque and educational information signs.
  - Upon designation, 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.

## **Giant Corporation Tree Planting Grant**

- Many trees planted 4 years ago at Holicong park have been damaged by mowers or deer and are in need of replacement
  - To replace unhealthy/dead trees at Holicong park, Buckingham applied on June 30, 2024 for an approximately \$4000 grant for 100 trees of at least 1" diameter with protective guards and watering bags. Additional 50 trees may be available through a Bucks Beautiful grant program. No Matching Funds required
- Next Steps: August 2024 grant award notification
  - Late September/October – plant trees with assistance from CB East Environmental Club members;
  - regular maintenance and installation of an informative plaque.
  - Giant has offered to develop an educational video to be posted to EAC website

## **Holicong Park Meadow Creation Update**

- A \$10,000 PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant was awarded to Buckingham Twp in December 2023 to create a 1.93 acre meadow at Holicong Park with informative plaques. Doylestown is also installing a similar meadow in their Township under same grant program
- State of PA form was completed and submitted to DCNR to allow initiation of construction. Bids have been submitted for the construction contract. DCNR will manage the construction in conjunction with Heritage Conservancy and Bucks County Conservation District
- Benefit: Habitat expansion, education opportunity for community, additional stormwater management



- Next Steps:
  - DCNR will award bid to a contractor and notify Buckingham
  - follow-up Buckingham Parks and Rec to review schedule and plan
  - Site visit to mark meadow boundary
  - Planting: Proposed meadow plantings include deer resistant perennials supplied by Heritage Conservancy and Bowmans Hill Wildflower Preserve
  - Long-term Maintenance: mow perimeter, Buckingham takes over maintenance after 5 years
  - Timing: August 2024 to Spring 2025
    - August/September 2024 - application of herbicide to remove grass
    - September/October – 2-3 week tilling/planting seeds; install informative signs
    - Spring 2025 – Spring blooms, contractor will do first mowing; long-term maintenance plan
  - Communications:
    - article in the local paper
    - website update with guidance on how an individual can develop a wildflower meadow
    - Buckingham and the Conservation District will schedule a Town Hall public information roundtable event focused on meadow construction
    - Educational information signs installed at the site; signs to not mow habitat tall grass, only access perimeter

## Sensory Garden Update

- Holicong Park master gardener proposal to pro bono design, construct and maintain a garden area emphasizing smell, touch, color etc.
- Benefit – accessible therapeutic area with educational information signs
- Next Step: solicit a formal proposal for presentation to Supervisors for consideration

## Community Outreach

- Fall EAC Seminar Series –
  - Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are part of a large group of lab-made chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) commonly used in non-stick and stain-resistant consumer products, food packaging, fire-fighting foam, stain resistant coatings and industrial processes. Exposure to these chemicals is cumulative and should be avoided.
  - In 2024, the EPA lowered the enforceable drinking water maximum contaminant levels for Perfluorinated alkylated substances (PFAS) and Perfluorooctanoic sulfonic acid (PFOS) to 4 parts per trillion (PPT).
  - This standard will reduce exposure from these chemicals in our drinking water to the lowest levels that are feasible for effective implementation.
  - Public education: Buckingham EAC will schedule a November 2024 Public information event to review how Buckingham Twp maintains its public water supply system, how it monitors for PFOS and PFOA and how Buckingham is proposing to treat any levels detected above EPA standards. For those homeowners who receive their drinking water from private wells, guidance will be provided on how to test their wells for these contaminants and what measures can be employed to treat any detected levels above the new drinking water standards. A video of the event will be posted to the EAC web page.
- Website Updates
  - EAC Helpful Page @Buckinghampa.org – Lisa Braud and Andrea Strout continue to review for content updates, additions
    - Add Tick prevention guidance – short description and link to Penn State article for maintaining property border and limit exposure to children and pets
    - Rain Garden Construction guidance with Penn State Extension links

- Convert concrete ponds to natural feature with direct stormwater management and aquatic plantings
- Spray Field Guidance and information update to Website
  - Community members have expressed interest in some information and guidance on how Buckingham operates, maintains and monitors its wastewater treatment spray fields; Treatment techniques prior to discharge; Required permits and monitoring standards prior to discharge via spray field at drinking water standards; Longterm required monitoring and reporting to ensure public health
- Student Outreach
  - CB East student rep Jack DeBoyace expressed interest in a speaker to the schools Environmental Club on forever chemicals PFOS and PFOA in drinking water in Buckingham and the Townships efforts to provide clean public water as well as testing and treatment guidance to private well home owners.
  - Explore setting up a meeting to engage students
  - Consider awarding an annual scholarship of at least \$500.00

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Foster

7/22/24

Amended 9/18/24